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WILLIAM REES-MOGG

A message of hope for the Chancellor

Compete and conquer, page 16



PAINTED LADIES

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MICHAEL JORDAN

End of the game for a superstar

World's best-paid sportsman, page 40

30p SAVE 15p

THE TIMES

No. 64,768 THURSDAY OCTOBER 7 1993

Crime and benefit fraud targeted

Howard leads right wing policy charge

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

■ Wide-ranging reforms of the criminal and social security systems set a ground-breaking right-wing agenda at the Conservative conference

THE Conservative right asserted its strength yesterday by unveiling the toughest crackdown on crime for a decade and a redoubled assault on benefit fraud.

Right-wing ministers took centre stage at the party conference as their champion Baroness Thatcher arrived in Blackpool to a blaze of media publicity, a fresh wave of recriminations over her criticisms of John Major and distinct nervousness in the Tory high command over her appearance with the prime minister on the conference platform today.

They exploited the turbulence surrounding Mr Major's leadership to hijack the conference with a battery of populist announcements on law and order and welfare to follow up the gains they believe they have already made on Europe and which are already provoking a backlash from the Tory pro-Europeans.

Michael Howard, the home secretary, and Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, won the biggest ovations of the week. One leading right-winger declared that the right was flexing its muscles because of a "collapse of authority" in the government.

An influential left-wing Tory said: "They are on the rampage. We can only take so much."

In what he called the most comprehensive programme of action against crime ever, Mr Howard announced an end to a suspect's historic right of silence; harsher penalties for young offenders: the building of six new prisons: a tightening of the bail laws", stronger "stop and search" powers against terrorists and the scrapping of restrictions on genetic fingerprinting.

He declared it was "action to prevent crime, action to help the police chase criminals, action to make it easier to convict the guilty, action to punish them when they are found guilty".

He said: "There is a tidal wave of concern about crime in this country. I am not going to ignore it ... I am going to take action. Tough action."

Mr Howard's measures pleased the Tory faithful; but an even warmer reception was given to Mr Lilley later when he announced a package to tackle "benefit cheats" and foreigners who "scrounge" housing and council tax benefits. Around 17,000 "benefit tourists" are likely to be affected by the clampdown that is expected to save the government £50 million a year.

It was the sort of fare that Tory conferences love and, ironically, took the attention for much of the day from the controversy over Lady Thatcher's memoirs, which had been refuelled by further alleged disclosures in the *Daily Mirror* yesterday.

It quotes her as saying of Mr Major that "intellectually he drifted with the tide" when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. Elsewhere she says: "We had to bring in others who were more at ease with large ideas and strategies into the discussion."

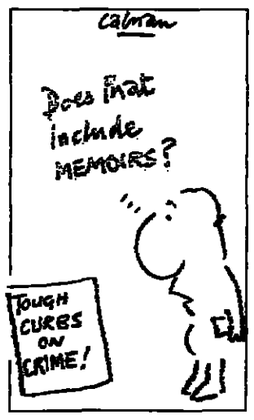
Lady Thatcher's attacks were rebutted by past and present ministers yesterday. Lord Lawson, the former Chancellor, said that her remarks could only diminish her standing. He suggested that she had still failed to come to terms with the way she was ousted from office in 1990.

Most ministers speaking in the conference debates pledged their support for Mr Major, reinforcing the impression of a beleaguered leader. In a surprise move James Molyneaux, leader of the nine Ulster Unionists, voiced strong support for Mr Major. He told a fringe meeting in Blackpool that Mr Major should not be evicted from Downing Street by "ambitious or nerveless colleagues".

John Gummer, the environment secretary, told the conference: "No more carping or sourness; we follow the leader we chose." Lady Thatcher, cheered by her supporters as she entered the seafront Imperial hotel last night, will attend the conference this morning for Kenneth Clarke's speech in an economic debate that could be marred by grassroots protests over the imposition of VAT on fuel. She attacked the plan at a private meeting last week.

Sir Edward Heath launched a bitter attack on the right last night. Referring to Mr Lilley's speech he said that "this scoffing at foreigners was the most horrible form of nationalism". He added that the right of silence should be kept.

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Conference reports, page 10
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Patten's 'madman' praised by Hurd

BY BEN PRESTON

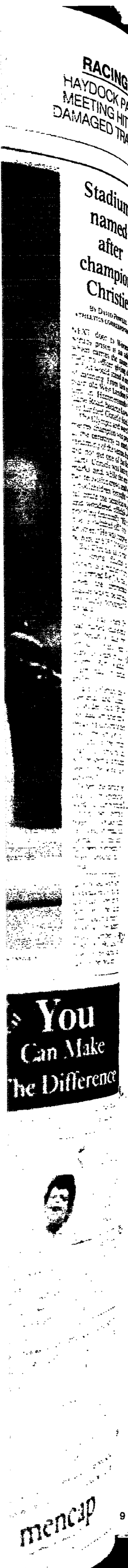
A SENIOR education authority official who was labelled a "madman" by John Patten has previously been lavished with praise by senior Conservatives, including Mr Patten, it emerged last night.

Professor Tim Brighouse, new chief education officer for Birmingham, was described by Mr Patten on Tuesday as a "nutter" who made a "frightful muddle" of education in Oxfordshire while responsible for its schools in the late 1980s.

But it was disclosed yesterday that Professor Brighouse was lauded by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, for his "skill and dedication" when he left the post in 1989. Tony Baldry, the housing minister, said that he was a "fearless champion of excellence in education". Professor Brighouse said that Mr Patten had offered "kind words" on his performance.

Mr Patten said last night that his comments were clearly satirical and apologised if they had caused offence.

Patten condemned, page 2





Michael Howard promises to respond to the "tidal wave of concern" about crime

A star lights up Blackpool

BY ALICE THOMSON AT THE CONFERENCE

THE famous hair-do appeared first, silver-grey in the arc lights, followed by the handbag then patent shoes and finally a royal blue tunic.

Smiling beatifically, Baroness Thatcher glided from the door to the lift, nodding from side to side as she fiddled with her pearls. The fans surged forward across the hall of the Imperial Hotel and even Wade Dooley, the 6ft 4in rugby player and policeman, was smothered in the crush.

But, after 800 pages of *The Downing Street Years*, Lady Thatcher was saying nothing. Her arrival came too late to be filmed for the 5.40pm news, and she also missed the 6 o'clock headlines, but at least she had given Blackpool ample time to prepare by being three hours late. The great wait had started at 3pm as representatives at the conference were ordering cream teas. Cameramen traipsed in, laddering lady activists' tights in their attempt to find the best place.

Elizabeth Buchanan, Lady Thatcher's loyal co-ordinator, was looking desperately at her Gucci watch. At this rate, Michael Heseltine would arrive before her, unless he stopped in a lay-by. Conservative Central Office was even more jittery. "It's a big gamble for Sir Norman Fowler bringing her here," one official. "If it doesn't work, he will get the blame."

The manageress was fending off questions about what Lady Thatcher was to eat that night. She was having a private dinner arranged by Sir Norman with good acquaintances such as Maurice Saatchi. Yes, the manageress knew that Lady Thatcher was partial to curry, but it was likely they would keep to more traditional English fare.

Lord Archer was hoping that she would be coming to his shepherd's pie and champagne party later in the evening, but John Major was also expected to attend after the Young Conservatives Ball and it was unlikely that they would meet until today on the platform for the economic debate.

By 5.30pm the remains of tea had been crushed underfoot. Someone was coming, the crowd surged forward, but it was only Norma Major.

At last, the star performer

Continued on page 2, col 5

Yeltsin 'was in a panic' as rebels stormed parliament

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin was panicstricken, disorganised and stormed around his offices calling helplessly for absent advisers when the uprising began on Sunday, according to a Russian journalist who was inside the Kremlin at the time.

Sergei Parkhomenko, a political correspondent for the liberal daily *Sevodnya*, said that the seat of power in Russia resembled an asylum, with Mr Yeltsin incapable of setting contingency plans for dealing with the violent struggle in the streets. "He appeared to me to be not very lucid," he told Italian Radio after failing to secure permission to publish his account in his paper on Tuesday because of the censorship imposed by the authorities. "He did not seem capable of pressing the right control buttons," added Mr Parkhomenko.

The account of disorganisation in the vital hours of Sunday afternoon comes as an embarrassment to Mr Yeltsin as he seeks to establish control in the aftermath of the bloody insurrection. Yesterday he announced that he would press ahead with elections to a new parliament in December.

In his first television address since he deployed the army to force parliamentary opponents in the White House to surrender, he said the flame of civil war in Russia had been extinguished. But "the heart is heavy because an enormous price had to be paid".

Mr Parkhomenko, a respected journalist generally supportive of the Russian leader, went to the Kremlin for a briefing with presidential aides after violence flared in the afternoon with demonstrators battling against police and interior ministry troops. He was trapped inside the Kremlin when guards shut the gates.

The president, who was at his dacha when the demonstrators went on the rampage, was flown back to Moscow by helicopter and Russian television showed pictures of him arriving calmly. But news that crowds were advancing on the television station caused a near "meltdown" in Mr Yeltsin's office, according to Mr Parkhomenko. He claims that the president was "paralysed" and gave no orders. "Yeltsin was yelling and everyone was looking for (Sergei) Filatov, the chief of the president's office," he added. But Mr Filatov was away negotiating with members of parliament.

Mr Parkhomenko said that the arrival of Gennadi Burbulis, the president's friend and adviser, and Mikhail Polteranin, his media chief, proved to be the turning point. "They saved the situation."

Lenin loses guard

THE guard of honour in front of Lenin's mausoleum in Moscow's Red Square was removed yesterday in what was described as a "change of ritual". The guard has been in place since 1924. Goose-stepping guards changing duties there has been a favourite attraction for Russian and foreign tourists.

Elated Yeltsin, page 12
Dilemma for West, page 16

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Cut out the meat and eat more vegetables for a longer life

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A DIET of nut cutlets and broccoli is more likely to promote long life and good health than roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, a survey published yesterday has revealed.

The first mortality figures from the Oxford Vegetarian Study, a 13-year investigation, show that meat eaters are almost twice as likely to die from heart disease as are vegetarians. They also have a 60 per cent greater risk of dying from cancer and a 30 per cent higher risk of death from other causes.

The study, supported by the Cancer Research Campaign, has been collecting statistics on 11,000 volunteers since 1980. Of these, just over 5,000 eat meat at least once a week, while 4,400 are vegetarians. A smaller group of 352 are vegans, and a fourth group of 1,358 are fish-eaters who eat meat not at all or less than once a week.

So far, the statistics are insufficient to make precise distinctions between the groups, but it is possible to compare those who eat meat regularly with those who seldom or never do.

Dr Margaret Thorogood, now at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, recently reported the results up to March this year at a conference in Australia. The volunteers, regardless of diet, appear to be much healthier than the British population as a whole, probably because they are drawn mainly from the wealthier social classes; furthermore, half of them claim never to have smoked.

Death rates from heart disease, for example, are half the national average even for the meat eaters. For vegetarians they are, however, only a quarter of the national average. In cancer, the meat eaters show death rates 80 per cent those of the national average, while the non-meat eaters are dying at only 49 per cent of the national rate. Death rates from all causes are 54 per cent of the average for meat eaters, and 41 per cent for non-meat eaters.

Dr Thorogood emphasises that it is impossible to conclude that meat is really what distinguishes the groups.

4,000 jobs put at risk by threat to BAe deal

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UNITED Kingdom ambitions to remain a world leader in civil aerospace are at risk after officials in Taiwan signalled growing unwillingness to proceed with a joint venture with British Aerospace to build regional jets.

If the deal collapses, BAe plans to close its regional jet business, Avro International, with the loss of 4,000 jobs in Manchester, Bristol and Prestwick.

The closure, for which BAe has already set aside funds, would cast doubts over Britain's ability to remain in the forefront of the world aerospace industry.

BAe has been negotiating for more than a year to cut the cost of its RJ family of aircraft, based on the BAe 146 whisper jet, by assembling them in Taiwan as well as Britain. The planes would be built in partnership with Taiwan Aerospace Corporation, a state-sponsored company set up to enable the Taiwan government to trigger the development of a national aerospace industry.

Yesterday concern that Taiwan might walk away from the joint venture were heightened after vice-economics minister Yang Shih-chien told Taiwan television his government remained behind the deal, but could not guarantee that TAC would proceed with the deal.

A BAe spokesman said his company was concerned, but believed a deal could be achieved.

Taiwan delay, page 23

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The Tories' all-out effort against crime includes more prisons and new laws

Legal reforms endanger justice, says Runciman

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

THE home secretary's decision to end the right to silence, announced at the Tory conference, prompted an immediate outcry yesterday. The chairman of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice said it could put at risk "confused and vulnerable" suspects.

Lord Runciman of Doxford welcomed the home secretary's commitment to the royal commission's proposal for an independent review body to consider miscarriages of justice. But he was "sorry that the government has seen fit to take up the minority view [of the royal commission]" on the right to silence.

A majority of the commission members recommended in their report in July that the defence be required to disclose its case before trial, but a minority went further, wanting adverse comment to be allowed on a defendant's refusal to answer questions.

Yesterday Lord Runciman said this created "a risk that confused and vulnerable suspects may incriminate themselves when they shouldn't. The commission's view was that when, but only when, a suspect knows exactly what he is charged with, and has had an opportunity to have considered legal advice, should there be any requirement to disclose the nature of the defence."

Lord Runciman urged the government, if it did choose to stop the right to silence, to implement a set of recommendations by the commission to protect the rights of suspects. Such safeguards, including ensuring access to legal advice, "become enormously important in the light of the home secretary's proposals."

If Michael Howard were to give police increased powers, "including power to put pressure on suspects", then the



Runciman: warned of risk to confused suspects

THE RIGHT TO SILENCE

government must introduce legislation to enable action to be taken against officers "discovered to have abused that power".

However, the attorney-general, Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, indicated that the right to silence proposals, expected to be included as a "matter of overriding importance" in the criminal justice bill, would not go as far as the royal commission's minority view. Adverse comment on refusal to answer questions would be allowed "where there is already sufficient other evidence before the court on which it would be open to the jury to find the case proved".

In a speech to the Society of Conservative Lawyers at Blackpool, Sir Nicholas said juries should be able to take silence into account "as added weight in the scales, if the judge rules that it is judicially proper to do so. I do not believe that this will render the vulnerable suspects unduly vulnerable in the police station. Rather, it will redress the balance against the experienced wrongdoer who currently can exploit the system unduly to his advantage."

The government is likely to have a tough battle with the legal profession on the right to silence, with the Bar, the Criminal Bar Association and the Law Society against the proposal. Robert Seabrook QC, vice-chairman of the Bar, said it was a mistake at a time when it was necessary to restore public confidence in the system. "The public might say, 'Surely if someone is innocent they would have said something,' but I believe it is much better to have a universal rule which ensures that the vulnerable are protected and not the other way round."

Rodger Pannone, president of the Law Society, said: "The right to silence is not an old-fashioned and out-moded tradition. To remove this right would upset the balance of our system of justice."

Charter 88, the constitutional reform group, said it would be a move towards tyranny. Pam Giddy, of the group, said: "We now join Kuwait, Iran, Iraq and China in not having the right to silence." Liberty, the civil rights organisation, said it could be a breach of international law.

Howard's speech, page 1
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A representative known only as Judy telling the conference of her experience as the victim of a sexual assault. She later praised Mr Howard's proposals

MAIN POINTS

☐ Abolition of a defendant's right to silence.
☐ Four new prisons, as well as two already announced.
☐ A new offence of gathering information for terrorist purposes and of possessing anything that gives reasonable suspicion of being connected to terrorist activities.
☐ Twenty pilot schemes for voluntary "parish constables" to patrol villages.
☐ Doubling the maximum sentence allowed in young offender institutions to two years for 15 to 17-year-olds.
☐ Secure training centres to be set up for persistent offenders aged 12-14.
☐ Abolition of judges' mandatory warnings to juries in rape trials about the danger of convicting on the woman's evidence alone.
☐ New police powers to stop trespassers, such as hunt saboteurs.
☐ Tougher laws against squatters.
☐ Plans to introduce urine testing for drugs in prisons.
☐ Tougher work for those serving community sentences.
☐ A new offence of witness intimidation.
☐ Scrapping bail for those accused of serious violent offences who have previous convictions.
☐ New rules allowing police to take DNA samples in all recordable offences.
☐ Tackling "jury nobbling" by allowing retrials.
☐ Powers to refer lenient sentences to the Court of Appeal to be extended in all the most serious sexual and violent offences.
☐ A criminal cases review authority to look at miscarriages of justice.
☐ Accepting all 16 recommendations of the recent enquiry into cutting police paperwork, releasing more policemen for active duty.
☐ Accepting the 11 recommendations on victims of crime from the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, including provision of better court procedures and facilities and consultation over bail decisions.
☐ Guidelines to end repeat cautioning and cautioning for indictable offences, except in exceptional circumstances.
☐ Automatic custody for anyone convicted of rape, manslaughter or murder, or attempting any of those offences, who is subsequently accused of the same category of crime.

Conviction review body still years away

By Our Legal Correspondent

THE home secretary's widely predicted backing for an independent review body to tackle miscarriages of justice is unlikely to result in legislation before 1995. Officials say that proposals could not be expected in the next parliamentary session because the details would take time to work out.

The formation of the authority was the centrepiece of the proposals by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. It would take over the investigation of alleged miscarriages from the Home Office, and would decide whether to refer cases to the Court of Appeal.

Contrary to wide speculation, Michael Howard did not announce proposals to curb a defendant's right to elect jury trial, despite support from the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills QC. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, had already made clear his opposition to a change. Such a reform, which would strike at a fundamental legal right, would be politically controversial.

THE RABBIT FOR CHANGE

Yesterday, Lord Runciman of Doxford, whose royal commission recommended ending the right to elect jury trial, said that he did not expect every one of the commission's recommendations to draw a response. It did not necessarily mean that a proposal was not being considered.

Mr Howard also failed to mention plea-bargaining, another of the royal commission's proposals. Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, the attorney-general, hinted in his speech yesterday that he supported the idea of an open court hearing in which a defendant could ask the judge what sentence the court "has in mind for a plea to a particular charge".

Mr Howard's other announcements aimed at enhancing court powers are expected to be enacted swiftly. In particular, he is to end the widely criticised warning which judges must give to juries in rape cases: that it is dangerous to convict solely on the uncorroborated evidence of the complainant. Judge Pearlman said recently that she "drew a deep breath" every time she had to issue the warning.

Second, he plans wider powers for the attorney-general to appeal against sentences he considers too lenient. Currently he has this power only for the most serious offences tried in the crown court. It would be extended to violent and sexual offences carrying more than 10 years' imprisonment, including indecent assault and child cruelty.

Police applaud Howard's drive against offenders

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE home secretary's plans to combat crime, which include the wider use of DNA samples, a clampdown on "bail bandits", stronger anti-terrorism measures and an end to the right to silence, were widely welcomed by senior police leaders yesterday.

They were pleased at how far Michael Howard had gone in supporting reforms they have been advocating.

After confrontations this summer over the Sheehy report and proposals for radical change to police disciplinary regulations, Mr Howard yesterday went some way to mending fences.

The decision to make changes on DNA sampling went further than the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, which said the crimes for which samples could be taken should be widened to a new group of serious offences.

The home secretary now proposes samples be taken, along with fingerprints, for all recordable offences. He also supports the idea of a national DNA collection. And by implication he supports the royal commission's view that police should be able to take saliva samples forcibly.

John Hoddinott, chief constable of Hampshire and chairman of a chief constables' committee on crime, said the most significant decision was to change the idea that defendants were entitled to bail, even when they had committed similar serious offences or had committed offences while on bail for a new offence. Chief constables have been lobbying for several years for action to halt "bail bandits".

anti-terrorist legislation will be welcomed by many officers, although they will require more Ulster style legislation for English statute books. Scotland Yard officers feel the government may have been influenced by the force of IRA attacks in the past year and the fact that the City of London went ahead with such measures as closing roads without undue protest.

Two new offences — possessing material which could be linked to terrorism and gathering information for terrorism — will be created. They are designed for use against the people behind IRA active service units who pave the way for attacks by reconnoitring and identifying targets. Police will be empowered to stop and search, on the

DNA TESTING

ground of possible terrorism, thus ending the problems in mounting road blocks: at present they have to have reasonable, recordable suspicion to a search a car: they cannot act randomly unless the motorist agrees.

Mr Hoddinott summed up the general view of senior officers: "I think police officers are going to be pleased on the main issues of bail, the right to silence and DNA. These are the main thrusts we have been arguing on for some time. I think they have got it about right."

He said the measures proposed yesterday would help to redress the balance of justice in favour of victims, witnesses and the mass of law-abiding citizens.

Mr Howard had accepted many police proposals on fighting crime. One police expert on legal reform said: "If he delivers what he has promised, the impact will be substantial. From our point of view, the proposals are highly significant."

Richard Coyles, chairman of the Police Federation, said: "My message to Michael Howard is, 'What you have proposed is first class'. It will help tremendously in the fight against crime. But now you have got to get the cabinet to give you the resources to implement these proposals urgently."

Mr Howard has yet to announce or publish the results of an investigation into police paperwork and bureaucracy. Police are now waiting to see the susbtance of the 16 proposals he has accepted. The report is known to examine critically the extent to which officers are pursued by other agencies, such as the Crown Prosecution Service, for paperwork.

Releasing more officers from penpushing will depend on three key areas: the amount of information the CPS realistically needs when many cases are guilty pleas, ways of ending the need for police to transcribe tapes of interviews, and better technology. The report will be published within weeks.

Mr Howard has also to tackle the question of violence against officers. Today he will meet DC Norman Brennan, a British Transport police officer, who has a 40,000-name petition calling for trials of side-handled batons and tougher sentences for attacks

More jails to meet rise in offenders

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

SIX new prisons to hold an additional 3,600 inmates are to be built in the next five years to cope with the expected increase in the jail population.

Plans for jails at Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, and Fazakerley in Liverpool are already well advanced. The prison service will now find sites for four new establishments in the North West, Midlands and east London. But the new prisons, to be financed by the private sector,

PRISONS

will not be in operation soon enough to cope with the rise in prison numbers, predicted to reach 50,000 some time next year.

In addition to the new jails, the government is to build five secure units each housing 40 persistent young offenders aged between 12 and 14. The new secure training order, with a maximum two-year sentence, will be the centrepiece of a Criminal Justice Act to be introduced in the next session of parliament.

Michael Howard's declaration that "prison works" contradicts the Thatcher's government's assertion that prison was an "expensive way of making bad people worse". His comments were greeted with dismay by penal reform groups, who accused him of abandoning a policy of punishment in the community that had applied to all but the most serious offenders.

☐ Prisoners will win extra privileges if they pass drugs tests, part of Mr Howard's plans to restrict drug abuse in



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American named in $40m fraud plot

Art restorer denies role in execution of accountant

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TWO hired assassins executed a British businessman to prevent him talking about a multi-million pound international fraud, a court was told yesterday. David Wilson, 47, a Lancashire accountant, was said to have been an innocent pawn in setting up the fraud.

When he discovered what was happening he broke contact with the American behind it, a jury at Carlisle Crown Court was told. After the accountant was interviewed by police, the American, who uses many aliases including Hector Meratto Portillo, asked a British contact to arrange for someone to "blow the hell out of that Wilson".

Yesterday the contact, Stephen Schepke, 46, a former art restorer from Sidcup, Kent, denied conspiracy to murder Mr Wilson or aiding and abetting in the killing on March 6 last year.

Brian Leveson QC, for the prosecution, said: "The Crown alleges that he helped set up Mr Wilson for death. He provided false names, bank accounts and intelligence for the assassins," although he played no part in the actual killing. The two gunmen have not been traced.

Mr Leveson said that Mr Schepke had "tried to run with the hare and chase with the hounds", going along with the murder plot and the fraud at the same time as he had informed the authorities of the fraud. But in the two weeks before Mr Wilson was shot dead in the garage of his home near Chorley, Mr Schepke had broken all contact with the authorities. "It was impossible that he did not know what was happening, yet he took no steps to inform the police. It was obvious that he was deeply involved in the murder."

Mr Leveson said that Mr Schepke was part of the fraud, said to involve $40 million (£26.5 million), in which a cargo of cigarettes was shipped across the Atlantic to Rotterdam. At some point, the ship, which had been bought by Mr Wilson, was to be scuttled and an insurance claim made.

Mr Schepke stood to make £60,000 in commissions from Mr Portillo in the deal, but had decided on his own "insurance" if things went wrong. He began passing information, first to agents of Lloyd's of London and then to detectives in the City of London fraud squad.

Mr Leveson said that Mr Portillo had told Mr Schepke "not once but many times he wanted Wilson disposed of. He wanted nothing left about the fraud — no paperwork, no meat, no bones."

Mr Schepke, using the name Paul Harris, found a private detective to locate and photograph Mr Wilson's home outside the village of Withnell. The information was passed to Mr Portillo.

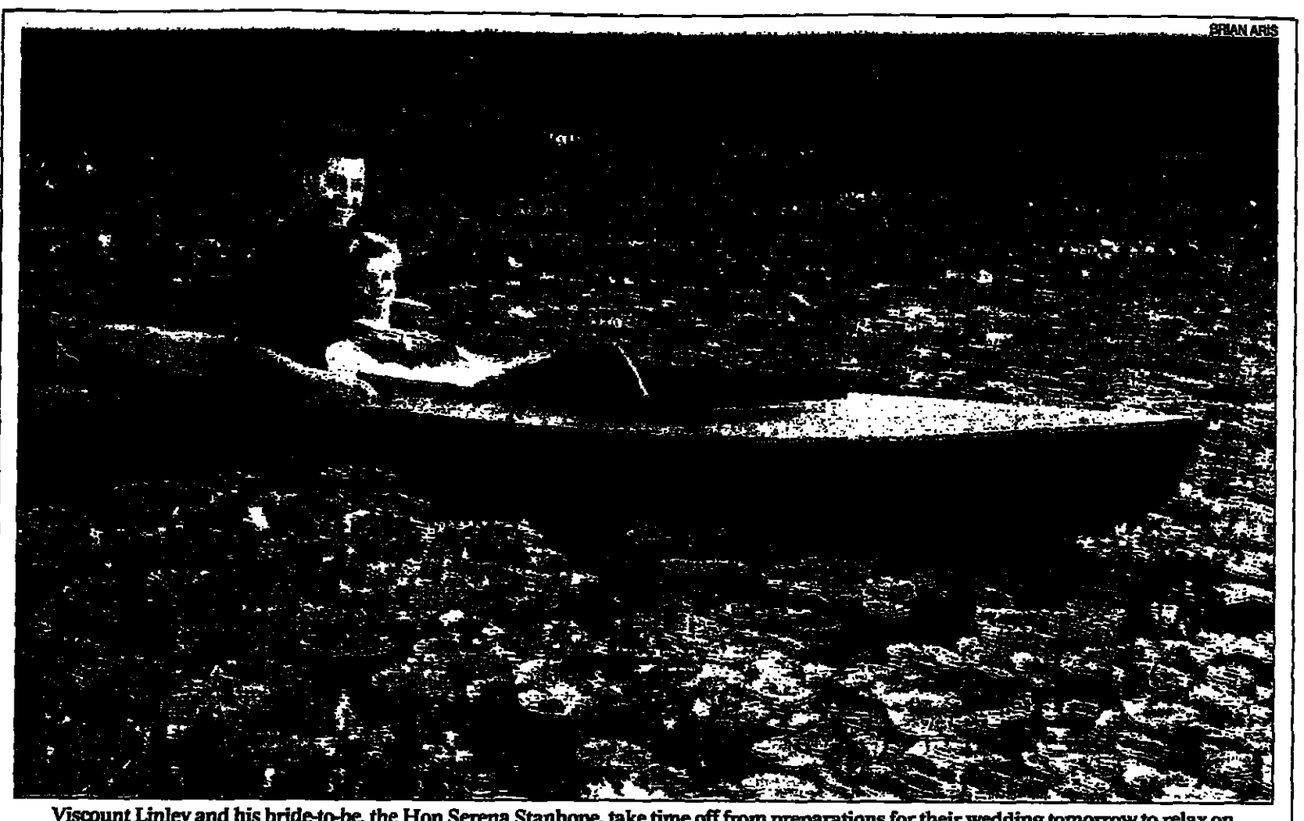
"Schepke played a modest but extremely important role in the cold-blooded murder of David Wilson," said Mr Leveson. "He helped obtain intelligence for the gunmen, knowing what it would be used for."

On the night of the killing, two armed men, their faces masked by balaclavas, forced their way into the Wilson home. His elder daughter Michelle, 27, was there alone. She was tied up and threatened. The men asked for her father and said he had been talking about the fraud. They then waited for Mr Wilson to return with his wife Barbara, their other daughter Lisa Marie and her fiancé Mark Stephenson. They were all bound and Mr Wilson was taken outside. His body was later discovered with two gunshot wounds fired at close range.

The hearing continues today.



Schepky: denies being involved in murder



BRIAN ARIS

Viscount Linley and his bride-to-be, the Hon Serena Stanhope, take time off from preparations for their wedding tomorrow to relax on the lily pond at Windsor Great Park. The Queen will lead the 750 wedding guests, who will attend a reception at St James's Palace

Millionaire twins buy Channel island

BY RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE secretive Barclay brothers, identical twins who have lived for years in tax exile in Monte Carlo, have added the remote island of Brechou in the Channel Islands to their considerable collection of properties.

David and Frederick Barclay, who have a fortune estimated at £500 million and who own *The European* newspaper, have bought the tax-free haven a short distance from Sark for a sum believed to be close to the £3.5 million asking price.

David Barclay, whose business interests include shipping, hotels and travel, took his seat yesterday in Chief Pleas, the governing body of Sark. Ownership of Brechou's freehold entitles the owner to a seat on Chief Pleas and admission into the island's government, known as Quarantine.

Under feudal law, the island can be bought only by a Briton who is prepared to swear loyalty to the Queen, and the owner of Brechou has to provide two men with muskets to defend Michael Beaumont, seigneur of Sark, if the island is attacked.

The 80-acre island has a seven-bedroom manor house, a dower house with two flats, four stone cottages, and various outbuildings and paddocks. It also has a private harbour and helicopter pad. The island is about 1,000 yards in length and 600 yards at its widest point.



Spare tourist's killers, says family

BY NICHOLAS WATT

THE girl friend and family of the British tourist murdered in Florida last month spoke out yesterday against imposing the death penalty on his killer.

Four teenagers have been charged over the killing of Gary Colley. Margaret Jagger urged US authorities not to pass the death sentence on them. "Neither Gary nor I believe in capital punishment and family and friends also agree with this view."

Mr Colley's father Terry said: "I am not out for revenge. That's not going to bring back Gary. You can't let your life be ruined by bitterness and anger. As far as Gary's killers are concerned, I will just let the police do their job."

Ms Jagger, 35, from Wilsden, West Yorkshire, who was injured in the attack in Tallahassee, northern Florida, said she suffered from flashbacks of the attack when Gary Colley was shot dead as they slept in a roadside rest area.

"I don't dream about this, I just get these flashbacks all the time," she said. "I was fully conscious all the time and saw everything. I will now try to rebuild my life without Gary, whom I have been with and have loved for fourteen and a half years."

Wearing a grey Florida State T-shirt, she said of the shooting: "There was nothing we could do in the situation. Feelings of guilt have gone through my mind but there was nothing we could do.

"I am just numb," she continued. "I don't really feel much for them [the youths] one way or the other. The biggest feeling is Gary not being with me. That is the biggest issue."

Ms Jagger has returned to the neat stone cottage she shared with Mr Colley. She said the memories she sees around the house help her to cope with the tragedy. "I am now trying to rebuild my life without Gary and am living at the house we shared because I am nearer to Gary there and get comfort from living there."

Mr Colley, who bled to death from a neck wound, was the ninth foreign tourist killed in Florida in less than a year.

Ms Jagger hoped the killing might lead to a change in America's gun laws. "If this makes new waves about gun laws and saves someone else from getting killed, then Gary has died for a reason, I suppose," she said.

"I believe there are a lot of problems in America and our country regarding the underprivileged, drugs, and crime, and I regard it as sad that people have to resort to going out to get guns to get kicks."



Jagger: tearfully recalls murder of boy friend

She said the shooting had not deterred her from visiting America. "It is a beautiful country. I will still go and tourists should go, but they should be careful. We have been so many times since 1976 and we thought we knew what we were doing but this sort of thing can happen anywhere. It can happen in Bradford."

Earlier, Mr Colley's mother spoke out against the death penalty for her son's killers. Brenda Armitage, of Shipley near Bradford, who is divorced from Gary's father, said she could not forgive the killers, but added: "I don't want them to get the death penalty because I know Gary would not have wanted that.

"The only reason I want them caught is so that they can't kill anybody else and nobody else can go through what we're going through."

Two years for killing reveller

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN killed a man outside a pub because he thought he was laughing at his friend, a court heard yesterday.

Simon Dash, 27, headbutted Christopher Ashton, 25, who was celebrating Red Nose Day on March 12, when comic stunts are staged for charity, because he thought Mr Ashton was sniggering at a man whose throat had been cut.

Dash, a computer programmer, who admitted manslaughter, was jailed for two years at Winchester Crown Court yesterday.

Dash had run out of a pub in Hythe, Hampshire, chasing a man who had hit his friend with a glass, inflicting a gash in his neck, the court was told.

Guy Boney, for the prosecution, said that when Dash saw Mr Ashton laughing at a joke, he assumed he was laughing at his friend's injuries.

Mr Boney said: "Mr Dash said to Christopher Ashton: 'why are you laughing, do you think it's funny?'

"Mr Ashton shrugged and Dash headbutted him and said: 'My mate has been glassed in there and all you can do is laugh'." Mr Ashton died in hospital ten days after the incident.

Stewart Jones, for the defence, said Dash felt remorse for his actions.

Father tells court how gunman tried to hijack his car

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A YOUNG father told the Old Bailey yesterday how two men tried to hijack his car as he drove his wife and their 10-month-old baby home.

One of the men ordered him at gunpoint to get out of his car. He sped off in first gear, fearing that the gunman would open fire, but there were no shots.

The driver, named only as B, was giving evidence on the second day of the trial of Patrick Kelly, 41, who has denied charges including conspiracy to cause an explosion and attempted murder. He is accused of being the driver of a lorry carrying 3.2 tons of explosive which was discovered when the vehicle was stopped by police. One officer was shot pursuing two men who fled from the lorry.

The witness told the court that he was slowing down at a junction in Stoke Newington, north London, last November when his car was waved down by one of two men. He said: "As I wound down the window, he grabbed hold of the door and pulled it open about a foot. I grabbed the door from the inside and he then put his hand into his trousers and pulled out a gun."

He said that the revolver was "like in the films — about six inches to seven inches long". As he was ordered out of the car his wife, who was holding their baby in the back seat, began screaming.

Asked what his first thought was, the witness said: "To drive off. I drove off as fast as I could in first gear." He reached a T-junction and turned without looking. He said his big worry was that the gunman would start shooting.

He said that he could not describe the second man, who stood on the pavement during the attempted hijack. He remembered that the man was shouting "Let's go."

Earlier, a housewife from Stoke Newington told the court that she was only a few feet away when a policeman was shot as he struggled with two men. She said that she had seen the men running towards her and, as a police car turned into the road, they hid in a garden.

She told the policeman where they were. He tried to grab them and they struggled to get away. She said: "I heard a big bang. The officer fell down with his feet on the pavement and his head in the road. I was very upset."

The trial continues today.

Boxing claimed to sharpen the brain

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

AMATEUR boxing does not cause brain damage and may improve the speed of mental functioning, researchers claim.

A study of 86 amateur boxers who were tested before and after bouts and up to two years later found their memory and speed of functioning to be significantly improved. The improvement was greater than among 31 water polo players and 47 rugby players who were also tested.

Experts who reviewed the study before it was published in the *Journal of Neurology* were so concerned that they asked for the findings to be toned down.

Richard Butler, a clinical psychologist at High Royds Hospital, Leeds, and author of the study, said: "The experts insisted we didn't make too much of the positive effects. The British Medical Association has a policy on banning boxing. The reviewers almost forced us to add statements playing the thing down."

A quarter of the boxers in the study received 30 or more blows to the head but their performance on the tests was no different from the rest. Immediately after competition, boxers performed significantly better than other athletes in adding up a list of numbers — a skill known to be particularly sensitive to the effect of blows to the head.

Dr Butler said that raised levels of adrenaline increasing the blood supply and heightening arousal could account for the improvement after a bout but not in the long term. Although familiarity with a test improves performance, the boxers made bigger gains than the other sportsmen. "The main finding of the study, which confirms research from around the world, is that amateur boxing is safe and it is wrong to classify it with professional boxing."

Amateur boxers fight bouts of only three rounds and are subject to tighter regulations that reduce the risk of injury.

☐ The Cancer Research Campaign last night called for a ban on cigarette advertising. Professor Gordon McVie, scientific director, said there was a definite link between advertising and young smokers and that the government would have to change its policy to achieve its aim of reducing the number of smokers by a third before 2000.

Eubank snubbed, page 39

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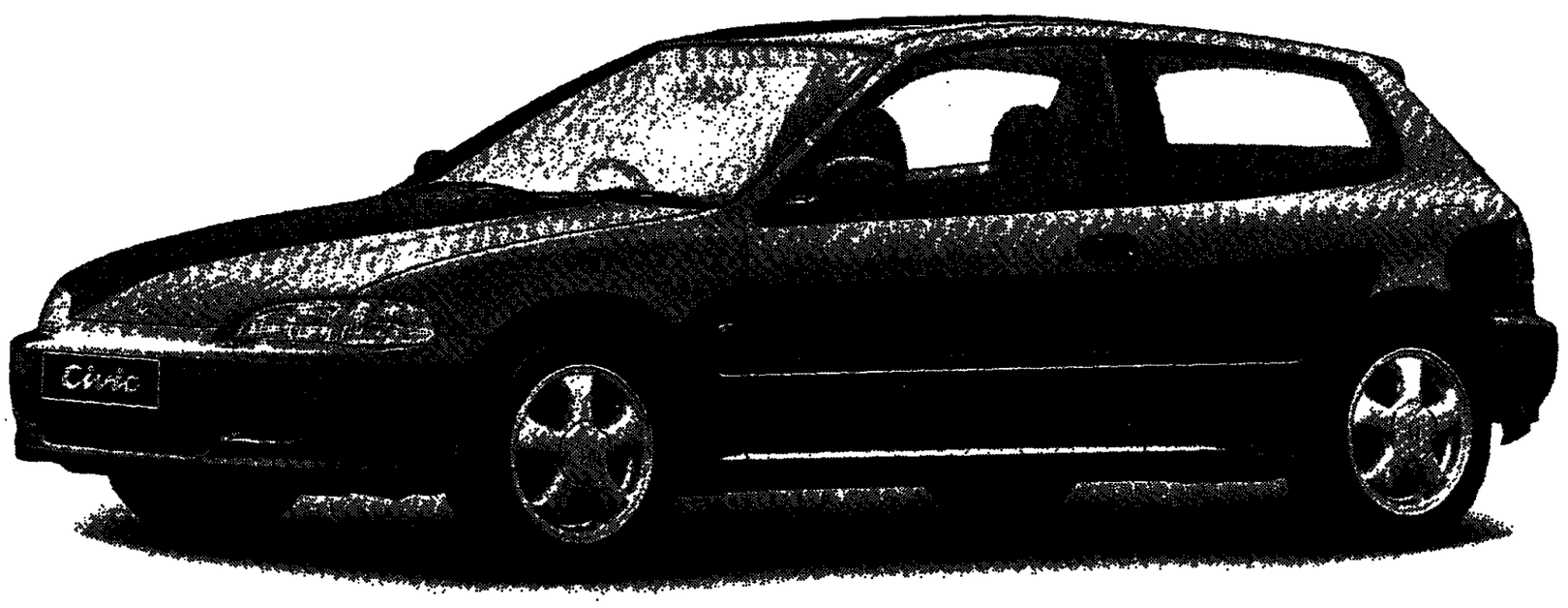
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Rail watchdog fears station sale could drive out passengers

BY TIM JONES AND RACHEL KELLY

THERE must be safeguards against passengers being left without rail access to city centres under the government's plans to sell its showcase train stations, the main rail watchdog committee said yesterday.

A spokesman for the central transport consultative committee, which is charged with safeguarding the interests of passengers, said: "Some of the mainline station sites are extremely valuable. There must be safeguards to prevent private companies who buy the best sites from redeveloping them and building stations on the outskirts of towns or cities."

Under the scheme, part of John MacGregor's controversial rail privatisation proposals, private companies are being invited to lease at least 12 stations for up to 125 years.

The most likely stations to attract interest from private sector companies are Glasgow Central, Edinburgh Waverley, Leeds, Manchester Piccadilly, Birmingham New Street, London Bridge, King's Cross, Liverpool Street, Paddington, Waterloo, Euston, Victoria and Charing Cross.

Last night, property analysts were considering who would be interested in the deal. Alistair Parker, head of retail development at Healey & Baker, a leading commercial property consultant firm, said that the sale could appeal to pension fund managers working with property companies.

He said: "This planned sell-off could be very attractive. At some stations the number of travellers passing through the concourse during rush hour is nearly as many as those walking down Oxford Street."

Some of the stations are in prime locations and have been extensively refurbished. Liverpool Street station, crucial for commuters to the City of London, has just been given a £150 million facelift.

Waterloo, which handles about 200,000 passengers a day, has a newly completed but unused £130 million international terminal, built to meet the needs of the £3 billion high-speed Channel tunnel link from Folkestone. It may never be used as St Pancras is likely to be chosen as the London link terminus.

Brian Wilson, Labour transport spokesman, has condemned the scheme as "a crude attempt at asset stripping on a grand scale". He said: "All these stations have enjoyed enormous investment of taxpayers' money."

Although British Rail made £48 million last year from letting space at its stations, Mr MacGregor, the transport ssecretary, claimed that the stations had for too long been the "Cinderellas of the system".

Mr MacGregor said that the freeholds of all BR's 2,500 stations, which include unstaffed halts on rural branch lines, will be transferred to Railtrack to ensure they retain their main role of serving passengers and new train operators.

"These proposals are designed to bring in private-sector finance and expertise to exploit their development and commercial trading potential and help provide a more attractive environment to managers," Mr MacGregor said.

Leading article, page 17

Patten refuses to help Mensa girl

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

LUCINDA Cash-Gibson, who became the youngest member of Mensa at the age of four, has been refused state help with her school fees because civil servants say she is not bright enough to need special treatment.

Lucinda's mother Coral is to take the education secretary, John Patten, to the High Court to challenge the decision. She has waged a three-year legal battle to win support from her local authority in Camden, north London.

Mrs Cash-Gibson said yesterday: "Lulu has been assessed as in the top 0.02 per cent of the population and has other special needs, and yet I am told she can fulfil her potential in a system that has already failed her. I would invite Mr Patten to show me a Camden school that will cater for her properly."

Lucinda was withdrawn from two state schools and taught at home by her mother. She is now at North Bridge House School, where her fees were paid by a company that foundered after the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. A single mother, Mrs Cash-Gibson cannot afford to pay £1,600 a term. She had been relying on Mr Patten to overturn Camden's refusal to issue a statement of special educational needs and pay the fees.

The education department said yesterday Mr Patten was satisfied that a state school could meet Lucinda's needs.

An independent assessment last year found that Lucinda had the vocabulary of a 13-year-old and the visual memory expected of a 16-year-old. The psychologist's report recommended educating her with older pupils, and added that she required attention for dyslexic tendencies and other special needs. Camden's assessment did not consider that her needs warranted a formal statement.

A letter from the education department's appeals team giving Mr Patten's decision said: "In the secretary of state's opinion, this view is borne out by the fact that, although Lucinda is performing at above average levels, her attainments are by no means exceptional."



Lucinda Cash-Gibson, whose mother is seeking state aid for her school fees

Shipwreck heroes usurped by satellites

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

SHIPWRECKS are not what they used to be, according to members of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society (SMS), as a presentation yesterday of an award for gallantry highlighted the diminishing opportunities for naval heroics.

Lord Lewin, Admiral of the Fleet and president of the SMS, presented an award for an outstanding air-sea rescue operation near Guernsey last October to a Sea King helicopter crew from Naval Air Squadron 772. They had lifted ten people from a flooding cargo vessel in darkness and gale, with waves up to 50ft high.

However, it was evident that satellite navigation systems and improved safety equipment have been bad news for the navy's heroes. Two other prizes for sea rescues were not awarded as no sufficiently impressive cases could be found.

The society praised the "outstanding performance and selfless courage" of the 772 helicopter crew. The accolades compensate for the silence of shipwreck survivors, few of whom thank their rescuers. "I don't want to seem ungrateful," Lieutenant Michael Langley, the 772 pilot, said, "but we get surprisingly little feedback. I think people are slightly embarrassed about being in that situation."



Langley: few survivors thank their rescuers

Therapists see Britain sink into depression

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

BRITONS are becoming increasingly miserable, anxious and depressed, according to psychiatrists.

They believe that Margaret Thatcher's drive to make the country more competitive in the early 1980s exacted a heavy psychological toll, with the number of people reporting depression or other psychiatric illness increasing from 22 per cent to 31 per cent.

Researchers who compared mental health surveys in 1977 and 1985 found the rise in unemployment over the period did not account for an 8 per cent increase in neurotic unhappiness. But fear of unemployment and the perception that Britain was becoming a tougher society offering less protection to the weak may have done so.

Dr Glyn Lewis, of the Institute of Psychiatry, chief author of the study published in the *Journal of Epidemiology*, said: "It is difficult to provide evidence that stressful incidents became more common or that there is a link with the election of a right-wing government in 1979.

"But the thrust of government policy was to make the country more competitive and to reduce safety nets. Britain has become a tougher place."

The sharp rise in the suicide rate among young men, which has been linked with the severing of family ties, could be explained by the rise in psychiatric illness. "This is a very important condition of enormous public health importance which we need to sort out," Dr Lewis said.

☐ The media's inaccurate portrayal of people suffering from mental health problems as being violent is perpetuating the stigma attatched to mental illness, according to a study by the Scottish Mental Health Working Group.

Body and Mind, page 14



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from Walsall, who admitted Antony Palmer QC, for the man an ambulance. 6.30am.

Vole holds the secret to fidelity

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

AMERICAN scientists have discovered the secret of a long and successful marriage — in the male prairie vole.

A chemical triggered by sexual intercourse is all that is needed to turn the male vole into a loyal husband and a fierce defender of his mate. In many ways, the prairie vole makes the perfect husband. A small, mouse-like creature, this vole mates for life, and once he has chosen his mate he defends her aggressively against intruders. Reporting in *Nature*, the researchers from the US National Institute of Medical Health in Poolesville, Maryland, say that arginine-vasopressin (AVP) pathways are created in the brain by mating, and cause both a lifelong bond, and the instinct to defend the mate.

The same was not found when identical experiments were done with another hormone, oxytocin, which is released during human intercourse and has been called "the cuddle chemical".

For prairie voles, evidently, only AVP will do. The situation in humans is clearly much more complicated.



Britain's native deer is increasingly interbreeding with the imported sika

Interloper threatens wild red deer

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE monarch of the glen, an enduring symbol of Britain, may disappear from the Scottish mainland by the end of the century. Interbreeding between wild red deer and sika deer, an exotic Victorian import, has become widespread.

Conservationists and zoologists believed that hybrids were relatively rare and posed little threat to indigenous red deer populations. However, tissue samples taken from deer shot on the Kintyre and Cowal peninsulas indicate interbreeding is rife. The findings, based on DNA genetic analysis of blood samples by Kate Abernethy, of Edinburgh University, suggest that up to 22 per cent of deer found in the area are now crosses.

Many conservationists and wildlife scientists believe that, by the next century, the true native red deer will be confined to the islands.

Kasparov overlooks lone chance to take game

GARRY Kasparov, the world chess champion, had hoped that game 13 of *The Times* World Chess Championship on Tuesday would break the recent gridlock of draws, but Nigel Short defended well, only giving the champion a chance on move 28, which Kasparov overlooked.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Nigel Short
Queens Gambit, Slav Defence

1	d4	d5
2	c4	c6

The Slav Defence, the first time Short has defended with this opening. Kasparov's record against it is formidable: 11 wins, 6 draws and no losses.

3	Nc3	Nf6
4	Nf3	dxc4
5	a4	Bf5
6	e3	e6
7	Bxc4	Bb4
8	0-0	Nbd7
9	Qe2	Bg6
10	e4	

This move offers a gambit, but accepting it is risky.

10	...	0-0
11	Bd3	Qa5
12	e5	Nd5
13	Bxg6	hxg6
14	Ne4	c5
15	Nd6	Qa6

Short's conduct of the psychological battle has increased in subtlety. His early defeats were coming with positions in which Kasparov had a very active queen. By forcing Kasparov to play simplified positions he is drawing the champion's teeth.

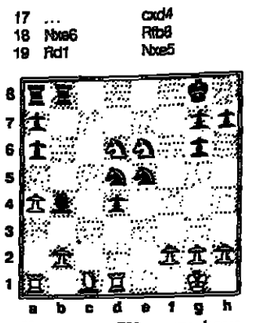
16	Qxa6	bxa6

Kasparov: "Now I had to play 17 Be3 and then I stand clearly better. I know Nigel has said that he believes in piece activity and that modern grandmasters have forgotten that checkmate ends the game. However, I still believe in pawn weaknesses and in this position Black's pawn structure is horrible."

17	Ng5	

Kasparov: "After this move it is almost a draw by force if Short plays correctly."

17	...	cxd4
18	Nxe6	Rfb8
19	Rd1	Nxe5



Kasparov: "We now have some grotesque positions with the knights locked together in the middle of the board."

20	Rxd4	

Short: "Kasparov missed my next move which is excellent for defence." Kasparov: "I had been expecting 20 ... Bxd6 21 Rxd5 Nf7."

20	...	Rb6

Short: "I could have played 20 ... Nc3 intending 21 bxc3 Bxc3 forking Kasparov's rooks, but 20 ... Nc3 21 Kf1 leaves my pieces exposed."

21	Rxd5	Rxd6
22	Rxd6	

Obviously not 22 Rxe5 Rd1+, leading to checkmate.

22	...	Bxd6
23	Bf4	Re8
24	Nd4	Bc5
25	Nb3	Bb4

Short: "It is a mistake to block the b-file for my rook. 25 ... Bf8 is much better and should be an easy draw."

Kasparov: "After my next move Short is in big trouble."

26	Be3	

Kasparov: "If Short now plays 26 ... Nc4 then I have a beautiful variation with 27 Bd4 Re2 28 Kf1 Rc2 29 Rc1 Nd2+ 30 Kg1 Nxb3 31 Rxc2 Nxd4 32 Rc4, winning back a piece. If Short avoids this line and trades rooks the endgame ... is bad for him."

26	...	Nd3
27	Rb1	Rc8



Kasparov: "My next move 28 Bxa7 is a terrible mistake. After 28 Nc1, the correct move, Short would be mathematically lost if he were to trade off all the pieces. For example 28 Nc1 Nxc1 29 Rxc1 Rxc1+ 30 Bxc1 Kf7 31 Kf1 (I must centralise my king, there is no time for Be3 and Bxa7, since the Black king would become too active) 31 ... Ke6 32 Ke2 Kd5 33 Kd3 Bc5 34 f3 Bd4 35 b3 Kc5 (if 35 ... Ke5 I play 36 Kc4 followed by b4-b5 to fix the black pawn weakness on a7) 36 Ke4 Bf6 37 Ba3+ Kc6. Now that Black has been driven back I simply advance my kingside pawns to pin down the weakness on g7."

"However, Short has a better defence, namely 28 Nc1 Ne5 and if now 29 Bxa7 Rc2 when I have to play 30 Na2 and my pieces are in a passive situation and Short would have good compensation for the pawn. The correct move for White is 28 Nd4, just preventing the Black rook from penetrating on c2. The position is obviously difficult for Black and I would have good chances to win."

28	Bxa7	Rc2
29	Bd4	Kf7
30	h3	Be7
31	Rd1	

If White plays 31 Bc3 Black forces a neat draw with 31 ... Rxf2 32 Rd1 Nxb2 33 Rb1 Nd3 34 Rd1 Nb2.

31	...	Nxb2
32	Na1	Nxd1

Not 32 ... Rxf2 as after 33 Kxf2 Nxd1+ 34 Ke2 the Black knight is trapped.

33	Nxc2	Bf6
34	Bxf6	Draw

☐ The rival Fide championship between Anatoly Karpov and Jan Timman will resume this month in Jakarta.

Letters, page 17
Winning Move, page 44

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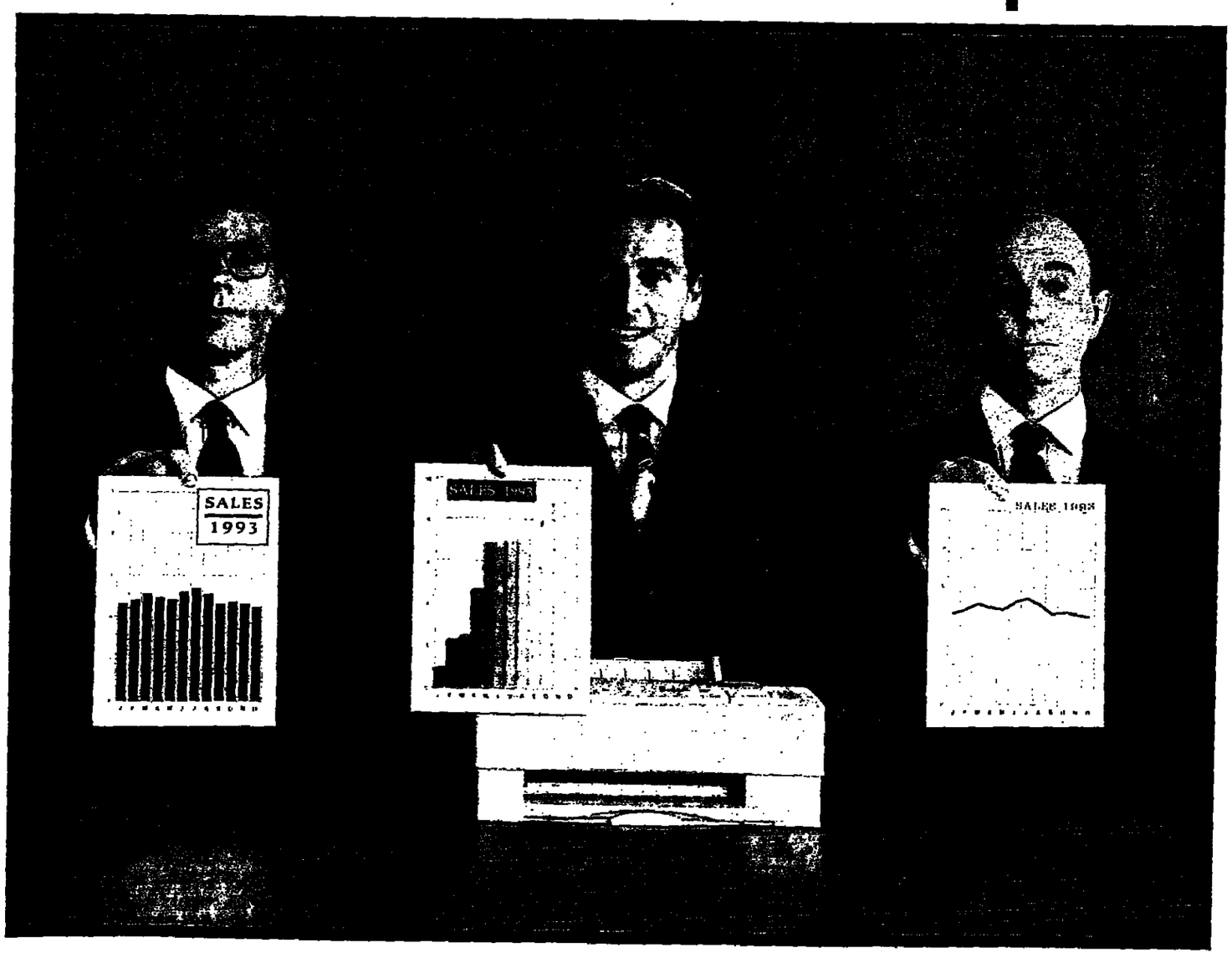
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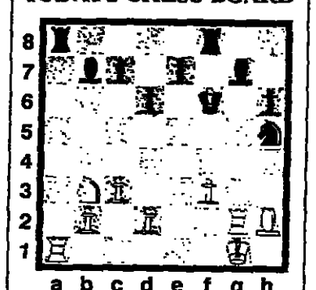
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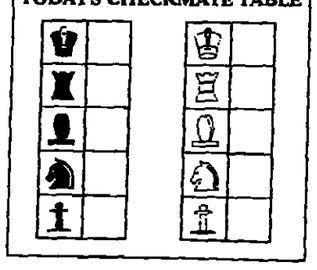
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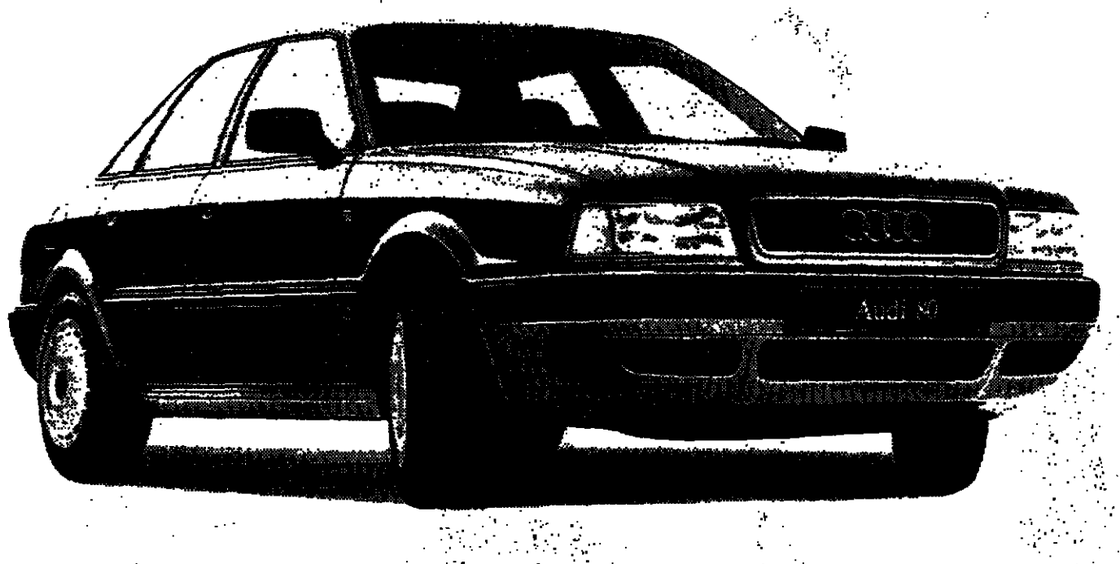
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HOND

Conference audience forget their discord when ministers play populist tunes

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

When in trouble, play the old populist tunes. Michael Howard roused the conference yesterday with his law and order package, as Peter Lilley did later with measures to clamp down on benefits to foreigners and social security fraud. They may play well in the country too.

With only a couple of exceptions, it has been the Conservative right's conference so far, at least in rhetoric. Not only has there been the spectre of Baroness Thatcher, who turned up in person last night, but most ministerial speeches have tacked to the right. They have sought to reinforce the audience's prejudices rather than to challenge them, just as most speeches at the Labour conference did last week.

Apart from Labour bashing and a new emphasis on "the two faces" of Paddy Ashdown, there have been attacks on student unions, scroungers, the BBC, liberal academics and opinion formers, bail bandits and layabouts: all of whom send shivers up the spines of the mainly middle-aged representatives.

The Euro-sceptics have lost the battle of Maastricht but they are a significant check on the government's approach to the European Community. They are celebrating the prime minister's alleged shift (more qualified in practice) in his article for *The Economist* two weeks ago. Apart from Douglas Hurd and a fringe speech by David Hunt, the emphasis has been largely negative, anti-Brussels and anti-European union. Mr Lilley, who won one of the few semi-spontaneous ovations of the week, wrapped himself in the Union Jack, revelling in foreigner bashing, and rejoicing in Britain's departure from the ERM.

The populist tone is an indication as much of weakness as of strength, of the party's need for reassurance at time when many of the rank-and-file feel lost and directionless. There was something meretricious and glib about many ministerial replies. It may be right, as well as popular, to crack down on social security fraud and abuses, but these measures are marginal to the real problems of limiting the growth of that department's budget.

At least Mr Howard made a large number of specific and important anti-crime proposals, the core of this winter's criminal justice bill, in response to the genuine concerns of the public and the police. But there was also more than a hint of wanting to appear tough to satisfy party appetites, as previous Tory home secretaries, in particular Sir Leon Brittan in 1983-4 and Kenneth Baker in 1991, have done in their conference speeches since 1979. That raises expectations about the scope for reducing levels of crime which are bound to be disappointed.

This week has been marked by a nervous unity in the conference hall, mandatory laudatory references to Mr Major in every ministerial speech and extravagant ovations every time he appears on the platform.

The Tory tribe is sticking together, but without much conviction or enthusiasm. There is an instinctive desire to rally round and to deplore the "malcontents" and critics. No one wants another leadership upheaval now. But that is only because any alternative is worse.

Some ministers draw comfort from this unity in adversity. But even the most loyalist ones accept that the current support is conditional and not indefinite. By this time next year, Mr Major has to show some evidence of political and electoral recovery, or else he will be in real trouble.

Yet the more strident the playing of the crowd-pleasing populist themes is, the more unreal it all seems, another symptom of a party in office for too long struggling to renew itself.

PETER RIDDELL

Tory activists demand a tough line on crime

BY SHEILA GUNN AND ALICE THOMSON

MICHAEL Howard, the home secretary, promised angry Tory activists virtually all the law and order measures they demanded yesterday by unveiling a draconian new anti-crime strategy.

In a fiercely right-wing and populist speech, he announced a fundamental reduction in the rights of defenders, including an end to the right to silence, new powers of arrest for the police and better protection for victims.

Two of the most popular measures with the conference was a promise that more young offenders would be prosecuted from next month instead of being cautioned, and far fewer offenders would be allowed out on bail.

In the keynote law and order debate, speaker after speaker received thunderous applause from the floor as they demanded an end to the "liberal" regime on crime.

The representatives sprung to their feet when Andrew Rosindell, the Young Conservatives chairman, called for a return of the birch for violent young thugs and the death penalty for murder.

Demands for tougher penalties by Judy, a victim of a serious sexual assault, and the former deputy party chairman Lord Archer, were also met by standing ovations.

Mr Howard replied: "The silent majority have become the angry majority. And you have shown that only the Conservative party can give that majority that voice."

Although he did not refer to capital or corporal punishment, he announced what he described as "the most comprehensive programme of action against crime that has ever been announced by any home secretary". The new measures include:

- ☐ Scrapping bail for those accused of serious violent offences who have previous convictions.
- ☐ Right of appeal against lenient sentences for child cruelty and indecent assault.
- ☐ Abolition of a defendant's right to silence.
- ☐ Tougher stop and search powers for the police against suspected terrorists.
- ☐ New police powers to stop trespassers, such as hunt saboteurs.
- ☐ 20 pilot schemes for voluntary "parish constables" to patrol villages.
- ☐ Drug testing in prisons.
- ☐ Doubling the maximum penalty to two years in young offender institutions.
- ☐ Tougher work for those serving community sentences.

The criminal justice bill in the next Queen's Speech will bring in many of the measures. However, more complex changes, such as a Criminal Cases Review Authority to investigate miscarriages of justice, will take longer.

CONSERVATIVES IN BLACKPOOL



Lord Archer not only warmed up the audience for Mr Howard but threatened to steal all the applause with his condemnation of Britain's criminal society. "Retired people who have completed their working lives as model citizens have the right to spend the rest of their days living in dignity and not living in fear," he said.

The audience cheered him on as he proceeded to attack bail offenders, young criminals, violent films, the "trendy *Guardian* and *Observer* arts pages", the Liberal Democrats and Labour. Having ridiculed the Opposition's record on law and order, he concluded: "Michael the time has come for you to stand and deliver."

Mr Archer's speech was one of the milder ones. In a motion commending the government's resolve in combating crime, speakers vented their anger on the "totally destructive liberal policies of the last 30 years".

In the most radical speech of the debate, Mr Rosindell said he was speaking for all decent, law-abiding young people in Britain.

"It's time to birch violent thugs," he said. "It's time to put persistent offenders out of circulation for good, to ensure that rapists once caught can never rape again. And it's time to bring back hanging for premeditated murder," he said. "We've tried it the liberal way for the last 30 years and it's failed, totally, utterly and tragically. It's time to do it our way."

Judy, from south Edinburgh, who first recounted her sexual assault to the Scottish Tory conference, described how, six months after the attack, she was dealt a second assault when the attacker's sentence was reduced on appeal. She is helping the Home and Scottish offices to draw up guidance for other victims. Judges should intervene to stop intimidatory cross-examination, she said, and victims should be able to give evidence via a video-link.

"I hope in a small way I have helped to dispel the view often expressed that victims of sexual crimes have somehow asked for it. Put the victim before the criminal," she added.

Philip Hammond, Lewisham East, said the motion "does not go far enough". He said: "Nobody wants to be trapped by fear inside their home even if they have got six colour televisions. Society belongs to the overwhelming majority of decent folk. The fightback starts now."

Right to silence, page 4
Leading article, page 17



Delegates show their pleasure at the leadership's focus on family values and law and order, at the conference yesterday

Lone mothers to lose priority

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WELFARE

SINGLE mothers are to lose their automatic right to council housing under a reform of the law to be announced today.

In the first shot in what threatens to be a wider crackdown on welfare payments to one-parent families, Sir George Young, the housing minister, will condemn existing legislation which allows teenage mothers to jump housing queues. He will tell the Tory conference that the government intends to reform laws on homelessness which currently give priority to lone parents.

Sir George's move will follow Michael Howard's condemnation of perverse incentives encouraging family break-up and Peter Lilley's announcement yesterday of a new blitz on benefit abuse.

In a speech underlining his Euro-sceptic credentials, Mr Lilley, the social security secretary, made it clear that his latest target was "benefit tourists" — Europeans who claimed benefit as soon as they arrived in Britain.

Under new regulations being drawn up by Mr Lilley, foreigners will have to prove they have been resident for several months before they can claim income support or housing benefit. He estimates that housing benefit abuse alone costs the government £50 million a year.

Mr Lilley also raised the issue of lone-parent families, but said they should be supported rather than blamed. Family values and the idea of a two-parent family should be upheld and encouraged he said. Although spending on lone parents was rising, Mr Lilley insisted his main aim was to avoid family breakdown rather than save money.

Sir George will not give many details of the government's plans but he is understood to favour giving local authorities the flexibility to set their own priorities. Other ministers want councils to establish supervised hostels for young single mothers.

The housing minister is expected to highlight what he regards as the injustice of housing young unmarried mothers ahead of young couples who are prepared to wait for a council house before starting a family.

He will also argue that the existing laws are a perverse encouragement for parents to throw their teenage children on to the streets in the knowledge that they will then qualify for a flat. The changes are expected mainly to affect people under 21.

Mr Lilley won loud applause for his determination to crack down on benefit scroungers, but his standing ovation had more to do with his stand on Europe. He confirmed that he was one of the "bastards" John Major had referred to in a leaked taped interview.

Schools to have secret ballots on opt-out

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN Patten yesterday intensified his personal crusade to stamp out alleged intimidation of governors wanting to withdraw their schools from local authority control. The education secretary announced at the conference that all votes by school governors on whether to opt out of local authority control will be held in secret.

He claimed that the grant-maintained programme was being frustrated because some governors suffered undue pressure from colleagues appointed by education authorities. Responding to claims of intimidation, Mr Patten promised to "clip the wings of the left-wing local authority placemen who too often manipulate what goes on in governors' meetings."

The new rules, to operate from next January, are aimed at accelerating Mr Patten's drive to ensure that more than half of the 4,000 secondary schools in England and Wales are grant-maintained by the next general election, doubling the present total of 1,000.

EDUCATION

Mr Patten predicted that schools in northeast and northwest England would benefit from enforcing secret ballots, although his department was unable to offer specific evidence that intimidation had significantly affected the pace of the grant-maintained programme.

After a year in which he piloted a wide-ranging Education Act through the Commons, Mr Patten's conference speech was short on policy announcements but concentrated instead on the importance of family values in raising standards of education.

The greatest threat facing Britain was no longer the division between rich and poor but between those who have a stable, caring childhood and those who do not, he said.

MAGAZINE

THE END

WILLIAM CASH ON THE DEATH OF CELEBRITY

TRAVELS WITH THE TIMES COOK: SPAIN

IAN MORRIS • JESSICA MITFORD • JANE MacQUITTY

BABYLON'S BURNING

"During my time in Hollywood I have met dozens of major stars. Many are about as interesting as a glass of flat soda. Others are crass, or are crude monsters; most are quite ordinary."

William Cash on the end of celebrity

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This Saturday in The Times Magazine

Gummer promises roads curb

BY NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW curbs on city centre redevelopments and motorways were announced yesterday by John Gummer, the environment secretary, in a move risking a clash with John MacGregor, the transport secretary.

Mr Gummer, who has emerged as a champion of urban and rural conservation, acted only 24 hours after Mr MacGregor boasted that the government was spending record amounts on roads, was pressing ahead with motorway tolls to raise more money for better routes and trumpeted the economic case for easing traffic jams.

ENVIRONMENT

The environment secretary told the conference that the despoiling of city centres must be checked. "The centres of our great cities are not the inheritance of only of those who live there — they are part of all our history. When Birmingham destroyed its centre and built its Bullring, it knelt before the mastery of the motor car. It overshadowed its medieval heritage with concrete. There was neither sense of scale nor standard of quality."

Mr Gummer said that in future there would be a much wider debate about the future of city centres and that he was revising the criteria for calling in development proposals.

"I want to ensure that we all have the chance to demand the quality and scale, the standards and the design which our urban centres demand."

Treasury faces battle over budget cuts

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

SPENDING

MINISTERS are battling with the Treasury to head off deep cuts in existing programmes, it was disclosed yesterday as details of the toughest spending round for a decade began to filter out at the Tory conference in Blackpool.

"No change on next year's control totals will be a good result," one senior minister said in a remark illustrating how traditional expectations of annual increases have evaporated under the pressure of curbing the £50 billion budget deficit.

Ministers said that defence, transport, housing, inner cities and the overseas aid budget were bearing the brunt of the surgery being masterminded by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary. Capital projects, such as new road and rail links, which were protected in last year's round, will not escape so lightly this year.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, is so worried about the threat to the £20 billion roads programme that he is trying to bring forward controversial plans for motorway tolls. Transport officials say this could be implemented within two years, saving £700 million a year. The measure would appeal to the Treasury because the private sector would be expected to design, build and manage the toll system.

The Treasury's problems have been magnified by the inexorable rise in the £80 billion social security budget under the impact of demographic and social changes, in particular family breakdown. The bill is rising at 3 per cent a year in real terms and offers little scope for short-term cuts beyond a fresh assault on fraud and a squeeze on invalidity benefit.

Ministers said yesterday that the Treasury would do well simply to limit the scale of the increase in next year's welfare bill. But because the amounts involved ran into billions, the result would be cuts in other departmental budgets.



Portillo: haggling over the spending curbs

One senior minister said that cherished programmes were biting the dust in the haggling with Mr Portillo.

The cabinet's spending committee, EDX, chaired by Mr Clarke, met earlier this week and is due to reconvene next week after the party conference. Few ministers appear to have settled their bids.

One of the biggest battles is raging over Malcolm Rifkind's £23 billion defence budget. After Mr Clarke hinted at cuts of up to 20 per cent at the weekend, the defence secretary broke with convention by taking his campaign to the conference floor, where he warned delegates that the forces must not become a "paper tiger".

But the £30 billion health budget is protected by a manifesto commitment to increase spending in real terms. With law and order and education at the top of the government's agenda, Michael Howard and John Patten have some defence against Treasury raids. The six new prisons announced by the home secretary yesterday will be built and run by the private sector. However, Mr Howard needs up to £100 million for the proposed new detention centres for persistent juvenile offenders.

Early speeches calm Tory nerves

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

DELEGATES

BARONESS Thatcher was encouraged yesterday to clarify her views about John Major rather than allow unconfirmed leaks to overshadow the party conference.

Emboldened by two days of trouble-free debate, rank-and-file supporters forming a conference panel for *The Times* shrugged off fears that remarks by the former prime minister might jeopardise conference tranquillity.

After being bombarded by ministerial pledges of support for John Major, the panel is buoyantly confident that the prime minister's defences are now robust enough to survive any direct or indirect criticism from his predecessor. "There is room for Thatcherism and Majorism in the Conservative party and Lady Thatcher will speak only with the best interests of the party in mind," said Steven Pugsley, chairman of Taunton Conservative Association.

His fellow panellists agree that Lady Thatcher could speak out without inflicting significant damage. "It might be better than having all these leaks and no-one knowing what is true," said Richard Pinhorn from the Isle of Wight association.

The panel of four Tory association chairmen, featuring as a guide to rank-and-file mood, came to Blackpool with varying degrees of apprehension. However, their relaxed approach suggests that the opening days' exchanges have calmed nerves. "The past two days have stiffened our resolve," said Mr Pinhorn. "The calls for unity from Sir Norman Fowler and John MacGregor have been successful."

The chairmen came to the Winter Gardens with high hopes that Michael Howard, the home secretary, would, in Lord Archer's words, "stand and deliver". Yesterday their reaction to his delivery ranged from delight to ecstacy.

Margaret Bates, from Batley and Spen in Yorkshire, said: "He has taken up what we have said. He will be tough and he will do what he promised."

Today's agenda

Morning debates: Housing and inner cities; employment, the economy. Afternoon debates: health; trade and industry; national heritage, the media and the arts.

Fowler to save party agents

BY ANDREW PIERCE

SIR Norman Fowler will unveil a financial package tomorrow, designed to halt the wave of sackings of party agents. More than 50 agents — paid officers who run constituency associations — have gone since the election because of the party's deteriorating financial position.

The party's treasurers, on the orders of the party chairman, have devised a scheme which will enable Central Office to give financial support to associations which can no longer afford to pay their agents' salaries.

The new policy was ordered by Sir Norman after he was presented with a report by the party treasurer's department which showed that 70 per cent of the annual quota paid to Conservative Central Office in the last financial year came from associations which employed an agent.

FINANCES

Sir Norman is preparing to commit immediately up to £250,000 to try to prevent any more agents being laid off. Some marginal constituencies have already received one-off payments. A member of the treasurer's department said: "Agents perform a vital role in fundraising. But because associations have cash flow problems they are being forced to lay them off. It is counter-productive.

"With financial support from Central Office agents should be able to stay, other associations will be able to employ them, and they will be able to lay the groundwork for a financial recovery."

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'Midnight is nearly here for the British-Chinese talks and there has been no breakthrough'

Patten exhorts Hong Kong to defend its values

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
EAST ASIA EDITOR
IN HONG KONG

BARRING a miracle — a Chinese climbdown — the British-Chinese negotiations over the future of democracy in Hong Kong will end this month and Chris Patten, the governor, will lead a unilateral struggle for constitutional changes Peking has already vowed to destroy.

In his address to the Legislative Council (LegCo) yesterday, Mr Patten said: "We now have only weeks rather than months to conclude these talks. There will then be a great deal of work to do to ensure that orderly elections can be held on time." A year ago he made his first speech in the chamber and laid out proposals which China described as deceitful violations of previous agreements.

It is understood that the negotiations are nearly at an end. Put simply, China wants to exclude from LegCo those of whom it says: "We don't like their judgments ... the cut of their jib ... their tailor." It is believed that the power struggle for the post-Deng Xiaoping leadership makes it impossible for Chinese negotiators to yield, for fear of looking weak.

British officials had hoped until late summer that there might be a negotiating breakthrough, but this hope has vanished. It is almost midnight, the governor said, and soon "we will have to get up in the morning and get on with things ourselves".

Most of the speech, however, showed Mr Patten as a passionate Victorian reformer. "Social change," he warned, "has the tiresome habit of creeping up on communities — and their governments — and taking them by surprise."

In passages filled with references to the poor, the suffering, the aged and the handicapped, he issued concrete policy suggestions ranging from air-conditioners for hot school rooms, training in mandarin for those who will have to speak to the new rulers after 1997, special diets for the chronically ill, and exactly 461 new beds and day places for the elderly.

Mr Patten ranged wider still, hoping — in one of the colony's most poignant issues — for the granting of British nationality to the tiny band of wives and widows of British ex-servicemen, many of whom were killed fighting the Japanese.

"We are not prepared to give away our principles in order to sign a piece of paper," he said. "We believe that the people of Hong Kong deserve a credible legislature, fairly and openly elected. Anything less than that would surely undermine the rule of law, and that rule of law is essential to the maintenance of Hong Kong's prosperity and freedom."

Mr Patten attacked China for blocking key economic projects in Hong Kong like the new £15 billion airport and a container terminal. But what the packed chamber was waiting for were Mr Patten's disclosures of the state of the negotiations, known from leaks from both sides to be moribund, and some inkling of what happens next.

The British have made serious offers, the governor conceded, especially in reducing by two thirds the number of potential voters in the 1995 LegCo elections. Mr Patten refused to say whether the Chinese had made any concessions, but later said: "I very much hope that at some stage we will hear equal indications of sincerity and flexibility from the Chinese side."

It was impossible, Mr Patten noted, "to go on talking forever in a sort of Micawberish way". He made it clear that when he sees John Major and the cabinet on November 10 he will be making proposals and expecting approval for the next stage, in which Britain and the Hong Kong government will be acting on their own, bringing legislation to LegCo for the 1995 elections.

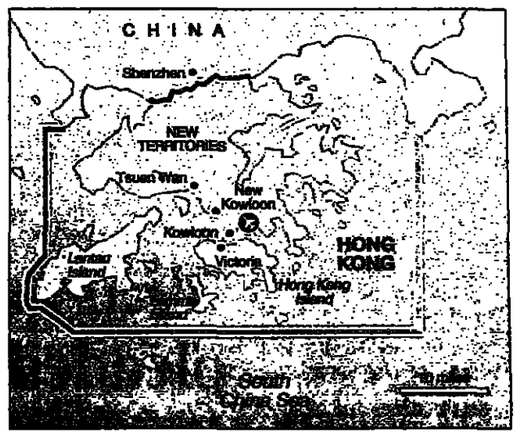
Mr Patten managed to be both modest and Olympian. His own proposals, which the Chinese so hate, are "in democratic terms, slim to the point of emaciation". At the same time he spoke of the Hong Kong way of life as "representing a set of values ... which increasingly represent the aspirations of the majority of humanity". The governor ended his address by assuring LegCo that "I am growing to love Hong Kong ... a blazing beacon ... a dazzling example" which the community as a whole must defend.

It would be wrong, the British side is said to feel, to give in to China simply because of its threats. There is a feeling that the British diplomats who contrived the 1984 Joint Declaration with China left the issue of the 1995 elections so vague that Peking would have dominated Hong Kong long before 1997. That kind of surrender, it is felt, would have been a fatal step at the moral crossroads.

Leading article, page 17



Demonstrators and journalists mill around Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, as he arrived yesterday at the Legislative Council for his yearly policy speech



City folk discover decadent delights

BY STEPHEN TAYLOR

CHINA'S cultural barriers continue to tumble. The country's first international film festival starts tomorrow, and the sinful pleasures of jazz and chocolate are poised to penetrate the country.

The Shanghai film festival, to be judged by Sophia Loren and Oliver Stone, the American director, is to feature 164 movies from 33 countries. Although China has a strong domestic film industry — *Farewell to My Concubine* by the director Chen Kaige won the Golden Palm at this year's Cannes festival — foreign films have always been rigorously scrutinised for unsuitable content.

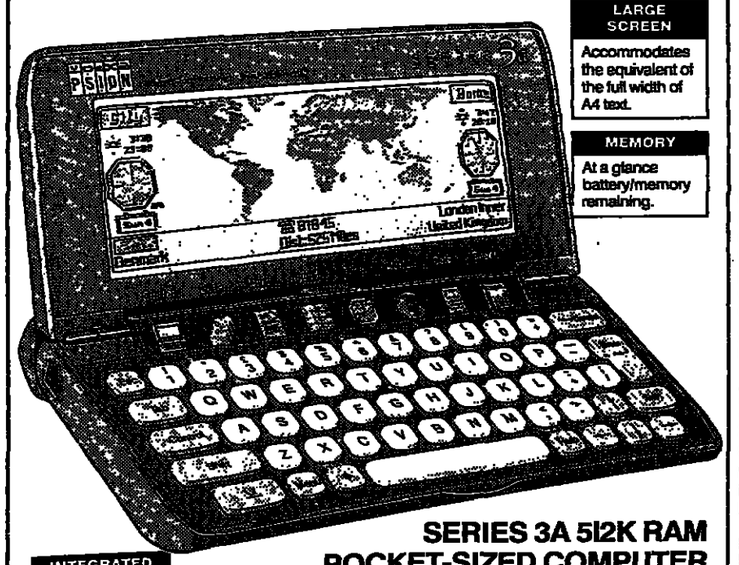
Jazz was regarded as possibly even more decadent than Hollywood under hardline communism. Next week, however, Peking will be hosting China's first jazz festival.

Liu Yuan, a saxophonist and the country's best known jazz musician, says there are no more than a dozen groups in Peking at present, but jazz is enjoying a new vogue among an increasingly affluent and culturally exposed youth.

Many of China's cultural fads are stimulated by commercial concerns attracted by the enormous potential of a largely untapped market. Cadbury-Schweppes, the British confectionery giant, hopes to spread chocolate-eating in China and is building a factory in Peking.

At present the Chinese are estimated to eat less than half an ounce of chocolate each a year, compared with per-capita consumption of more than 3 lb a year in Hong Kong and 11 lb in America. Kevin Hayes, regional chairman of the firm, said: "If consumption here reached only the level in Hong Kong, that would mean a market of 1.5 million tonnes a year."

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Elated Yeltsin settles old scores and muzzles critics



Lenin: the guard of honour at his Moscow tomb has been removed

FOUR blank spaces in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* yesterday were a piquant demonstration of the contradictions and organisational chaos produced by the violent climax of President Yeltsin's clash with the legislature.

A government censor removed the articles from the liberal newspaper, which has started to turn away from the president's cause and whose editor has defended parliament but without being aligned to extremists in the opposition circles.

The withdrawn pieces were critical of the use of the army against parliament, underlined the risks of using mass force in a highly-populated industrial area and cast doubts on the possibility of free elections which Mr Yeltsin pledged yesterday would continue as proposed in December.

At *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, a pro-Yeltsin paper, one article on the prospects for an unimpeded parliamentary ballot — a sore point for the Yeltsin camp — was allowed only after amendment by the censor. After the suspended publication of the far-right *Den* and the far-left *Pravda*, there is evidence that Mr Yeltsin is in an autocratic mood, determined to stamp out the last flicker of parliament's resistance.



The president's violent clash with the legislature has led to a mood of vengeance and reckoning in the capital
***Anne McElvoy** writes from Moscow*

But in the aftermath of the assault on parliament there also seems to be a good deal of confusion in the Kremlin. Vyacheslav Kostikov, Mr Yeltsin's spokesman, said yesterday that the Russian leader had ordered the lifting of censorship and claimed that it had never been intended in the first place. So far, no one else has come forward to admit ordering the cutting of chunks of newsprint from perfectly acceptable newspapers. Whoever it was, he has the excuse that he was only following the authoritarian *Zeitgeist*.

Mr Yeltsin is in elated mood and is clearly having the time of his life firing all the irritating senior officials he had considered unreliable or incompetent. The public prosecutor has been changed and the constitutional court chairman resigned before he, too, suffered the indignity of being publically axed. Cabinet posts are being reshuffled, relations redefined and enemies cut down.

Even the founder of the Soviet state has not escaped retribution. The guard of honour in front of Lenin's tomb on Red Square has been removed in connection with what the Kremlin authorities described as "change of ritual". The failure to close the mausoleum and rebury Lenin since the collapse of the Soviet Union was in part evidence of a reluctance by the authorities to part with their country's past — Mr Yeltsin was after all a member of the Communist party for 20 years — and he also seemed loathe to shatter the icon, fearing that it would cause a backlash from old communists. The mood is one of vengeance and reckoning and Mr Yeltsin is not noted for his magnanimity. The question is how he intends to return the country to circumstances in which he can hold elections to a democratic parliament. Yesterday he called on local soviets (councils) to dissolve themselves to allow the plan to proceed but their co-operation cannot be assumed.

The Russian leader's idea was to replace the cumbersome twin structure of Supreme Soviet and Congress of People's Deputies with a two-tier federal assembly, one chamber consisting of deputies elected by direct vote, the other of regional representatives. But he has not yet completed negotiations with the regions on the terms of their co-operation let alone the wider question of how much influence parliament will be granted over government. The initial draft of a revised constitution gives the president the right to dissolve the legislature if there is a constitutional impasse like the one this year. It also makes clear the superiority of the executive — points which perturb some powerful regional figures and many democrats, who fear that parliament could end up so subservient to the president's whim that it would have no independent role.

It is also uncertain which individual candidates will be allowed to stand. Having blasted the hardliners out of the White House with shells and bullets, Mr Yeltsin will not be keen to let them back into parliament.

Pressure from the West, loyal to Mr Yeltsin during Monday's crisis, will also be a factor. The international community will be anxious to balance its message to Mr Yeltsin by reminding him to be true to his declared democratic credentials.

So far the West has been ready to take Mr Yeltsin on trust, insisting that in the chaotic conditions in Russia now there is no point in quibbling over the suspension of some recent democratic gains and the reimposition of censorship. Nevertheless, Western leaders, who retain a residual suspicion of Mr Yeltsin's blustering manner, have made it clear they expect a relaxation in emergency rule and a freer atmosphere in the run-up to the elections in December.

Yeltsin panic, page 1

Moscow appeals to Nato leaders to relax treaty limit on heavy armour in Caucasus

Election in Russia to proceed on schedule

BY MARTIN IVENS IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ELECTIONS for a new Russian parliament will be held on December 12, the date previously announced, President Yeltsin announced last night in an attempt to reassure Russians and the concerned West of his democratic credentials.

At the same time he relaxed the press censorship which he introduced on Tuesday. But he retained his ban on extreme nationalist and communist opposition parties.

In his first television address since all resistance in the White House was crushed, Mr Yeltsin urged his countrymen

YELTSIN

to put aside fears of civil war. "The flame of civil war in Russia has been extinguished. But one's heart is heavy because an enormous price had to be paid," he said. "I am aggrieved that, amid the ashes, people have already started creating a commotion for the sake of petty political advantage, for the sake of saving the reputations of those who covered themselves with shame that night. May God be their judge!"

He placed blame for the deaths of the more than 100 people killed in Sunday's fighting squarely on his opponents. "All this has another name — an armed uprising planned and prepared by the leaders of the former Supreme Soviet," he said.

Mr Yeltsin also demanded that local soviets prepare for new elections. He did not, however, give orders for their dissolution.

Presiding over Russia's security council, which includes the interior, defence and security ministers, Mr Yeltsin made a public show of his indebtedness to the military, indicating that their support during the crisis would be reciprocated. "We must adopt a military doctrine at last," he said. "I propose we meet again in a week and sign it."

Quarrels with parliament have delayed the formulation of a new non-communist role for the military. Now that parliament has been forcibly dissolved, important decisions on the future of nuclear strategy and the defence of Russia's borders can be resolved.

In fact Mr Yeltsin has already appealed to Nato leaders to suspend part of a conventional arms treaty to allow him to place more tanks and artillery in the Caucasus to defend part of Russia's southern border. Concerned that the wars in Georgia and Azerbaijan might spill over into his country, Mr Yeltsin has complained that the weapons limits imposed by the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty are unfair.

The treaty was signed in 1990 and came into force last year. Article five, which covers Russia's northern and southern flanks, allows the Russian military to station 1,300 tanks, 1,380 armoured combat vehicles and 1,680 artillery pieces as a global figure in these two regions. Faced with ethnic conflicts across the border in Georgia and Azerbaijan, Mr Yeltsin wants more flexibility.

At a meeting in Brussels yesterday, Nato ambassadors announced a willingness to work more closely with Russia on security issues. Nato sources said, however, that the CFE treaty was "the cornerstone of European security and shouldn't be played around with".

Mr Yeltsin's appeal came in personal letters last month to President Clinton, John Major, President Mitterrand of France, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and other Nato leaders. In subsequent discussions with Moscow since the appeal, however, Nato officials have been reassured that Russia is not preparing to make a dramatic exit from the treaty.

In a separate development yesterday, Valeri Zorkin, the chairman of Russia's Constitutional Court and one of Mr Yeltsin's last remaining enemies in high office, bowed to the winds of change and resigned his post although he refused to step down from membership of the panel of judges.

Yeltsin panic, page 1
Too far, too fast, page 16



President Yeltsin at a security council meeting yesterday with, from left, Pavel Grachev, defence minister, Yegor Gaidar, deputy premier, and Victor Chernomyrdin, prime minister

Vice-president pleaded for help

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MOSCOW

ALEKSANDR Rutskoi, the imprisoned parliamentary leader, was so convinced that President Yeltsin's government had ordered all the rebels to be killed in Monday's military assault on the White House that he pleaded frantically with the head of the constitutional court to call foreign ambassadors to the battle zone.

Mr Rutskoi's appeal to Chief Justice Valeri Zorkin was made by telephone from inside the besieged building.

RUTSKOI

It was recorded by a Russian journalist and broadcast late on Tuesday by the Echo of Moscow radio station.

Mr Rutskoi, who was declared acting head of state by hardline deputies after Mr Yeltsin dissolved parliament on September 21, claimed in his appeal that Viktor Erin, the interior minister, had "given the order not to take witnesses [alive]" from the rebel side. "We are living witnesses. They will not allow us to live. I beg you to call the ambassadors," he said.

He added: "They [the government] know that we have recordings, that we know everything that has happened since October 2, who gave the orders, when, where they opened fire, how they killed people."

In the plea, recorded at about 2pm on Monday, Mr Rutskoi screamed at Mr Zorkin that a journalist from the Interfax agency sent out of the parliament building with a white flag as an intermediary had been shot by government troops. The journalist, Stanislav Terekhov, told *Izvestia* later, however, that he had in fact been prevented from leaving the building by its defenders, who had beaten him and forced him to remain lying on the floor for two hours.

After saying that the journalist had been shot, Mr Rutskoi paused. Then he said: "They are firing mortar rounds ... The tanks are being positioned in attack formation. They are going to fire salvos. I beg you to call the foreign ambassadors.

"Will the international community allow witnesses to be shot? ... The day will come when all this must be uncovered because these people are assassins."

Mr Rutskoi, who was stripped of the vice-presidency by Mr Yeltsin before the revolt, had called on protesters on Sunday to storm Moscow's city hall and to take control of the Ostankino television headquarters.

Where the big boys are cut down to size

FROM MARTIN IVENS IN MOSCOW

THE wise-cracking lawyer with the snappy, green suit could have come straight out of New York street theatre. With exaggerated sincerity he demanded access to his clients — not next week, not tomorrow, but right now. He had voted for President Yeltsin too, he said, but what about the rights of "the little guy"?

LEFORTOVO PRISON

The lawyer was Abdullah Khamzayev; the setting was the perimeter of Moscow's notorious Lefortovo prison, once the gateway to Stalin's Gulag. The "little guy" was the previously self-important figure of Ruslan Khasbulatov, the former Speaker of the Russian parliament, now being detained at Boris Yeltsin's pleasure.

Mr Khamzayev may be sincere when he says he voted for Mr Yeltsin. But not all of his clientele did. He also represents Gennadi Yanayev, the vodka-soaked Soviet vice-president nominated by the August coup plotters of 1991 to succeed Mikhail Gorbachev.

When Mr Khasbulatov's wife, Raisa, phoned him for help, Mr Khamzayev responded melodramatically, saying: "We're of the same blood". Both the former Speaker and his lawyer are Chechens, members of a war-like north Caucasian people who have declared independence from the Russian Federation. Muslim Chechens are unpopular here because of their clannishness and their Sicilian-like association with gangsterism.

Mr Khamzayev was refused access to his clients yesterday for the second day. The former Speaker is being kept in isolation. The Lefortovo chief of security told Mr Khamzayev that he would have to apply to the state lawyer investigating the case if he wanted a meeting. Mr Khamzayev replied that this would be as "difficult as finding a black cat in a darkened room".

He may be right. The procurator general, Valentin Stepankov, was sacked on Tuesday by President Yeltsin. "I think that Aleksei Kazannik, the new procurator general, will solve this problem," said the lawyer.



Khamzayev: defending rights of the little guy

Charges have yet to be brought against the defenders of the White House. Their spiritual predecessors, the August 1991 coup plotters, were charged with betraying the motherland, for which the maximum sentence is the death penalty. Constitutional wrangling and the stupidity of Mr Stepankov, who wrote a book about the case even before the trial, undermined the prosecution, and the plotters have been freed on bail.

The October 1993 revolt was a far bloodier affair, however. Three died in August 1991; the death toll this week was more than a hundred. Aleksandr Rutskoi, the hardliner nominated by parliament to replace Mr Yeltsin, had offered no mercy to his enemies. Before he urged the army to mutiny and his rabble to march on the Kremlin, he decreed that all those who resisted his government were liable to be shot.

Just as the *Pravda* newspaper appealed yesterday for support against Mr Yeltsin, so Mr Khamzayev intends to play to the democratic gallery. "What happens in the United States and Britain when a man is arrested?" he asked rhetorically. "Can problems be solved by violating the rights of the individual?"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian diplomat 'expelled'

Warsaw: Russia and Poland said yesterday that they had recalled their military attaches from Warsaw and Moscow, but sources in the Polish government said both men were expelled.

The Polish defence ministry said its attache, Brigadier Roman Hormoza, was recalled from Moscow on Tuesday for consultations. The Russian embassy in Warsaw said its attache, Colonel Vladimir Lomakin, had been summoned home last week.

The embassy gave no reason, but senior Polish sources said Warsaw had ordered the first expulsion of a Russian military attache since the collapse of communist rule in Poland in 1989 and Moscow had responded. *(Reuter)*

Police orders

Tokyo: Japan, anticipating right-wing protests, will mobilise 10,000 police during a visit by President Yeltsin next week. Little progress is likely on a territorial dispute over the Kurile islands. *(Reuter)*

Latvia move

Moscow: The Latvian government has banned three organisations it described as pro-communist, Tass said. It also warned Russian troops based in Latvia not to support the banned groups. *(Reuter)*

Final count

Baku: Geidar Aliyev, the former communist strongman and acting Azerbaijan president, won an overwhelming victory in presidential elections, taking 98.8 per cent of the vote, according to final results. *(AFP)*

Writer held

Tbilisi: The authorities, fighting rebels in western Georgia, have detained a Russian writer and several opponents of Eduard Shevardnadze. *(Reuter)*

Rebels cut off

Tashkent: Russian troops fighting on Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan surrounded 300 to 400 Muslim guerrillas after a four-day battle. *(Reuter)*

Germans view Moscow victory with relief but no joy



Yeltsin trying to keep communism in its coffin, as seen by a German cartoonist

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

INTERNATIONAL REACTION

THE Germans have been the most relieved of all the Europeans by President Yeltsin's army-backed victory over parliament. With debt exposure of almost $40 billion (£26 billion) and tens of thousands of Russian soldiers still on German soil, it has become a truism that when Russia sneezes Germany catches a cold.

Yet the survival of Mr Yeltsin has not unleashed the popular emotion that characterised the Gorbymania of 1989-1990. Cartoons show Mr Yeltsin trying with mixed success to hold down a coffin lid on the spirits of the communist past as they fight their way out: others contrast Mr Yeltsin in 1991 — proudly astride a tank — and in 1993 shooting a tank cannon. In the popular imagination he is quickly making the transition from democrat to benign dictator, and Germans do not like it.

The disillusionment has percolated to the business community. Although Bonn politicians are urging more financial aid to bolster Mr Yeltsin, Germany's business leaders are wondering aloud whether the political risk of investment in Russia does not outweigh the long-term benefits.

Even the long-standing champion of trade with Russia, Otto Wolff von Amerongen of the German Chamber of Commerce, is now advising Germans to put their investments on ice. Some business should continue, if only to keep open the bridges between Germany and Russia, he said yesterday, but Germans should suspend any big trade deals until a clear position was taken by the Russian central bank, until new cartel laws were passed and until property laws were implemented.

German investment in the East was already beginning to flag because of political unrest. It had dropped to 14 million marks (£5.7 million) in 1992 and seems set to fall much lower this year. Karstadt, a German department store chain, has just announced that it will not invest directly in GUM, the huge shopping complex off Red Square.

Edzard Reuter, the chief of Daimler-Benz, emphasised that his company will advance very cautiously in Russia.

Dr Wolfgang Kartte, former chief of the German cartel office and now a consultant on Russia, said that on a recent trip to Russia "I met only very tired business contacts, completely worn out by the power struggle." He advised yesterday that Germany should switch from financial aid to know-how projects.

All these sceptics were among the most enthusiastic supporters of expanding aid and trade with Moscow two years ago. But the old premises of *Ostpolitik* — that credits and grants could contribute to political stability and gradual democratisation — have crumbled.

☐ **Tokyo:** The world's top industrialised nations, the Group of Seven — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — yesterday called on Mr Yeltsin to hold elections for a new legislature and to continue his reform. Japanese prime minister Morihiro Hosokawa, G7 chairman, said G7 nations welcomed the return of stability in Moscow. *(Reuter)*

هكذا من الأصل

Clinton seeks new Somali policy to stem Congress revolt



Clinton: cancelled public appearances yesterday

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND SAM KILEY IN MOGADISHU

■ Outraged by US casualties, presidential dithering and Pentagon blunders, Congress is threatening to cut off funding for the operation

PRESIDENT Clinton held two more crisis meetings with his top generals and advisers yesterday in search of a new strategy on Somalia that would avert a full-scale congressional revolt against America's increasingly costly military involvement there.

The first meeting ended on Tuesday night with Mr Clinton "very dissatisfied" at his advisers' failure to reach consensus. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, and Les Aspin, the defence secretary, had visited Capitol Hill to appeal for more time but fuelled congressional anger at the administration's lack of a coherent plan.

Robert Byrd, a senior Democratic senator, plans to force a vote before the end of the week on cutting off funding for the operation and senior members of both parties said that as things stood it would undoubtedly be carried.

A Gallup poll yesterday showed 43 per cent of Americans wanted the 5,000 US troops out immediately, another 26 per cent wanted them withdrawn more slowly, while 18 per cent favoured sending a stronger force. Outraged by pictures of dead and incarcerated US servicemen in Mogadishu, 66 per cent called the entire 10-month operation a failure.

Another storm was meanwhile brewing on Capitol Hill over charges that the US casualties in Somalia this week would have been far lighter had the Pentagon not rejected an urgent request last month by Thomas Montgomery, the US commander in Somalia, for tanks and armoured personnel carriers. Mr Aspin reportedly turned it down largely because of growing congressional disenchantment with the Somali operation.

Lacking that equipment, US reinforcements took nearly nine hours to reach a force of nearly 100 army Rangers trapped by hundreds of well-armed Somalis on Sunday night. By the time they got through about 70 of the Rangers had been killed or wounded. At least one, and possibly as many as six, other US soldiers had been captured by Aidid supporters.

The Rangers had gone in at 3.45pm on Sunday to seize top Aidid aides meeting in a hotel in the heart of the warlord's territory. They became trapped when they tried to encircle the first of two Black Hawk helicopters that were shot down. An ill-equipped American quick-response force was sent to help them, but it was intercepted and had to retreat. The American commander had to summon Malaysian and Pakistani armoured vehicles. That took four hours to coordinate and it was 2am on Monday before they fought through to the Rangers. At least 12 Americans died and 75 were wounded over the two days.

Yesterday Somalis living in the district began evacuating the area in fear of a massive US retaliation. The Pentagon has confirmed that seven special forces helicopters, an additional 600 men with tanks and armoured personnel carriers and AC-130 Hercules aircraft armed with 105mm howitzers are all on the way to the Somali capital.

Although there had been suggestions that General Aidid had been using six American hostages as a human shield, Issa Muhammad Siad, his foreign affairs spokesman, said yesterday that he knew only of the Black Hawk helicopter pilot, Michael Durant, being in custody.

Mr Clinton, who cancelled public appearances yesterday, was said to be "disgusted" by pictures of jubilant Somalis dragging dead Americans through Mogadishu, but his options are severely limited. An immediate withdrawal is unthinkable while Americans are still held hostage. It would destroy the entire UN operation and involve an enormous loss of face. However Congress would bitterly oppose a major expansion of the US force. The Pentagon is shocked at the organisation of General Aidid's militiamen and appalled that they have learnt to shoot down the helicopters that had given US troops their greatest advantage.

Political ramifications of the Somali crisis are spreading fast. It has completely eclipsed Mr Clinton's urgent efforts to promote health-care reform and the North American Free Trade agreement. It has fuelled public and congressional anger at the perception that a barely competent UN is dictating American foreign policy, and senators — citing Somalia — are already signalling their opposition to the idea of sending 25,000 US troops to help Nato enforce any Bosnian peace plan.

Congress and the media severely criticised the administration for its lack of clear objectives. Many of the 200 congressmen briefed by Mr Christopher and Mr Aspin on Tuesday night left angrier than before.

"I learnt nothing that I didn't already know," protested John McCain, a Republican senator. "Anyone who watches the local and national news would get more information."

USA Today accused Mr Clinton of "blundering and confusion". *The Wall Street Journal* said he was trapped in a "fog bank of his own making".

☐ **Mogadishu:** A Russian UN worker in Somalia has been killed, taken by a shark as he waded in the Indian Ocean off a Mogadishu beach, a military spokesman said. *(Reuter)*

Arafat and Rabin report progress in Cairo talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE 20th anniversary of the outbreak of the last major Arab-Israeli war was marked yesterday by what until weeks ago had seemed an impossibility: the first successful working session between the leaders of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Doing nothing to disguise their continuing antipathy, Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader and Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, announced after two hours of talks that committees to discuss Israel's pull-out from Jericho and Gaza, and later from other parts of the occupied territories, would open on schedule in Egypt on October 13.

The two men spurned the opportunity of a second public handshake and press requests for a historic joint news conference. Instead, they spoke separately of the positive nature of talks that gave a new impetus to the peace process begun on the lawn of the White House on September 13.

In a significant concession to Palestinian sensibilities, Mr Arafat claimed it had been agreed to appoint representatives to discuss Jerusalem. Israel had always insisted the issue should not be raised until further talks on a permanent peace settlement after two more years.

Mr Rabin did not mention the point in his briefing. It is likely to provoke criticism from the right-wing Likud opposition.

Mr Arafat announced he had appointed Faisal Al-Husseini, the leading Palestinian figure in Jerusalem, to discuss issues relating to the Holy City with an Israeli representative who would be named by Mr Rabin soon.

Israel captured Arab East Jerusalem in 1967 and annexed it as part of its "eternal capital".

Yesterday's renewed momentum for the Israeli-PLO peace accord was matched by a declaration in Portugal by Shimon Peres, Israel's foreign minister. He said he was now hopeful of soon reaching a full peace deal with Jordan, which would then integrate with Israel and the Palestinian territories in a Benelux-style economic grouping.

Before yesterday's mini summit, staged as Egyptians were enjoying a holiday to mark the outbreak of the 1973 Yom Kippur war, the infant Israeli-PLO pact had been threatened by mutual acrimony over renewed violence in the West Bank and Gaza and the PLO's failure to announce details of its negotiating teams.

Mr Rabin said: "We are committed to whatever we signed. You have to translate through negotiations into reality." Both sides played down recent differences and attempted to give the impression that all was proceeding on course.

Mr Arafat said: "The meeting was useful and positive. We hope we will be able to carry out what has been agreed on paper on the ground, smoothly and easily."



A soldier and an electoral commission volunteer carrying ballot boxes to a Lahore polling station for Pakistan's general election yesterday



Military plays the honest broker in Pakistan ballot

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S most peaceful and honest general election ended last night with 150,000 troops ensuring that ballot boxes were not stolen, stuffed or otherwise rigged, that *goondas* — or hooligans — did not capture polling booths, that candidates were not assassinated, nor voters marched to the ballot box at the point of politicians' rifles.

It was a remarkable finale to a campaign of unparalleled decency, despite an exchange of insults between Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif, both former prime ministers. Mr Sharif worked for Miss Bhutto's dismissal in 1990; she helped bring about his this year. The Sharif administration kept Miss Bhutto's husband, Asif Zardari, in jail on unproven corruption charges, making their enmity deeply personal.

The military's role as guardian of election day propriety, coupled with the scrupulous neutrality of the caretaker government appointed three months ago, made this a historic poll. Since 1970 every election has been manipulated and violence prone. Observers from 40 countries yesterday found little to complain about.



Bhutto: ready to accept outcome of fair polls

Prime ministers do not last long in Pakistan. Administrations were kicked out in 1988 and 1990 and Mr Sharif was shown the door by the army in July, ending a power battle with the president that had paralysed the government. The next prime minister will at least have the moral authority of having been elected honestly. Both Mr Sharif and Miss Bhutto said they would accept the outcome.

This remarkable achievement was due to the military, which urged the caretaker government to shuffle top bureaucrats who might have employed state machinery for political purposes. The military also ensured the dismissal of the four provincial governments to prevent their manipulating the general election. Provincial polls will be held on Saturday.

The military's determination to give Pakistan a chance of fair government is not necessarily permanent. While eager to reverse their reputation for scuttling democracy, the generals remain in the wings.

There are 217 seats in the national assembly. Pakistan desperately needs a government with a solid majority rather than another coalition. The Sharif government began unravelling when the Islamic right, unhappy with the slow pace of Islamisation, withdrew support.

The turnout among 52 million registered voters was reported to be low. The worst violence, modest by Pakistani standards, was in Karachi, the Bhutto heartland, where buses were burnt. The Mohajir Qaumi Movement, representing immigrants and their descendants from India, boycotted the poll.

Commonwealth rights improve

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Commonwealth has made substantial progress in promoting human rights in member countries, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, its secretary-general, said yesterday. He added that only four countries still lacking democratic credentials would be at the forthcoming Commonwealth summit in Cyprus, compared with nine at the 1991 summit.

Releasing his biennial report, Chief Anyaoku said that quiet lobbying, the monitoring of elections by Commonwealth observer teams and behind-the-scenes diplomacy had given substance to the Harare declaration on human rights. But democracy had to be backed by social and economic development, and the Commonwealth was now setting up a new privatisation fund to provide capital for the buy-out of state enterprises.

"For a long time the Commonwealth was vulnerable to the charge that it declared itself in favour of noble principles yet in a number of its member states these were found wanting," he said.

A sensitive issue is the struggle for democracy in Nigeria, of which Chief Anyaoku is a former foreign minister. "It will be represented in Cyprus by the incumbent head of state at the time," he said yesterday.

Elsewhere, quiet lobbying had yielded results, however. The secretariat had defused the post-election crisis in Kenya by persuading the opposition parties to accept the result; it had also mediated in the dispute between the exiled King Moshoeshoe II and the military government in Lesotho, enabling him to go home.

Chief Anyaoku strongly criticised Britain's decision to stop funding the Commonwealth Institute in Kensington in 1996. Many countries had asked him to try to get the decision reversed, he said.

☐ **Poll victory:** Sir John Swan, Bermuda's prime minister, has held on to power but with a reduced majority after general elections on Tuesday (Eve-Ann Prentice writes).

The opposition Progressive Labour Party, which favours independence from Britain, increased its share of the 40 parliamentary seats from 15 to 18. Sir John's United Bermuda Party, which had 23 seats before the election and has governed since the late 1960s, won 22.

Sunshine state cuts primary race time

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

CALIFORNIA is to move its presidential primary elections from June to March. What amounts to a significant change in America's lengthy system of selecting presidential candidates will cut the first leg of presidential races almost in half.

The change was signed into law by Pete Wilson, California's governor, and reflects growing exasperation among Californians about casting their vote at a time when the nomination race has already been settled by other states. California is America's most populous state and accounts for more party convention delegates than any other, yet Californians feel that their numbers have never been translated into political power.

The beneficiaries will be established candidates with large campaign funds, who will be able to influence the nomination race with short blitz campaigns. Among the Democrats, President Clinton will find it easier to fight off a liberal challenge from within his party.

But the change is most significant for the Republicans, who, unlike Democrats, operate a winner-takes-all rule for California's convention delegates. The state's Republicans send a block-vote of 201 delegates to the convention — almost 10 per cent of the total vote. This compares with 121 votes from Texas and 100 votes from New York.

There is some disagreement on how the change might affect potential Republican candidates, other than discouraging fringe contestants. But all candidates will benefit in that campaigning will be reduced from several months to a few weeks. The change will increase the influence of the media and reduce the effect of the traditional campaign, especially in large states.

The frustration of Californians with the present system has also been evident on the night of the election itself. Because of time differences across America, Californians are among the last to vote. Booths are still open in the state at a time when exit polls on the East Coast are correctly predicting the election outcome.

Riyadh and Tehran lay summit plans

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN TEHRAN

PRESIDENT Rafsanjani of Iran and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia are to hold a summit aimed at improving relations between their two Islamic states.

Jalal Sadatian, a member of the Iranian parliament's foreign affairs subcommittee, told the *Tehran Times* that Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister, was due shortly in Riyadh to discuss the timing and venue of the summit. Dr Velayati might go to Riyadh on his way back from the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

If the two countries reached an understanding, they might play a vital role in the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The meeting between President Rafsanjani and King Fahd would be the first between the heads of the two countries since Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979. They broke ties in 1987 when Iranian pilgrims were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces.

Tehran and Riyadh restored ties in 1991, but efforts at normalising relations suffered a blow following an incident in Mecca last May when the Saudis banned an anti-American rally by pilgrims.

☐ **Bodies exhumed:** The bodies of the late Kurdish leader Mustafa Barzani and his son Idris were exhumed in Iran and delivered to the Barzani family at the border with Iraq.

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

"THERE are patients in hospital with treatable conditions whose chance of survival, rapidity of recovery or future quality of life may be impaired by malnutrition."

This was the message given by Dr Simon Allison, consultant physician at University Hospital, Nottingham, to a conference held in London to assess progress in the implementation of the recommendations made 18 months ago in a report by the King's Fund on the importance of a patient's nutrition in their overall treatment.

Anybody who watched Lucy Gannon's play *Tender Loving Care* on BBC television, which gave a frighteningly accurate picture of life in many geriatric wards, will not be surprised by Dr Allison's observations.

In nurse Dobbs's ward where overworked, undertrained harried nurses dealt with incapable patients there was not, and in these conditions never could be, any time for tenderly spooning food into frail semi-comatose patients, or persuading them to drink.

Before the days of the pharmaceutical revolution, one of the few ways in which doctors were able to influence the course of a disease was to determine the patient's diet so that he or she had the nutrition which would give the best chance of recovery.

Thirty years ago, patients expected dietary advice as well as a prescription, and in hospitals at that time a close check was kept on what a patient was eating, and above all, drinking. Fluid balance charts were rigorously maintained, under the sister's orders, and no ward round was complete without enquiries about a patient's appetite.

Three years ago, when visiting an octogenarian relative in a geriatric ward, similar to nurse Dobbs's, it was soon apparent that nobody had any idea what the patients were eating or drinking. Food was placed in front of rows of chairbound moribund patients, many too ill or too frail to eat or drink by themselves. After a decent interval the food, often untouched, was cleared away. Any patient too weak to eat could not have avoided becoming both dehydrated and under-nourished.

Professor John Lennard Jones, a consultant gastroenterologist, told the conference: "We may be haunted by the spectre of famine in the Third World, but in our own relatively affluent country there are many weak and wasted people who are severely malnourished as a consequence of illness. Their waste is not because there is no food, but because they either do not eat it or cannot absorb it."

In the better hospitals, doctors and nurses are again learning to take an interest in a patient's nutritional state. They hold regular meetings with catering staff, dieticians and pharmacists to make certain that their patients are given every chance of recovery.

Research quoted by Doctor Allison has shown that if a patient involuntarily suffers a 10 per cent weight loss as a result of disease there are measurable defects in muscle strength, respiratory function and resistance to infection. If they lose more than 35 per cent of their pre-illness weight the loss may be fatal.

Professor Adrian Eddleston, Clinical Dean at King's College Hospital, London, summed it up when he said: "A patient's body is not a pharmacological workshop. It is useless to lavish drugs on a person who is starving. Overall care is all important."

Farm fever

IT WAS like old times to hear this week of an outbreak of brucellosis in Anglesey, and it must be tragic for the farmer who has had to slaughter his dairy herd.

Brucellosis, also known as undulant fever or Malta fever, is rarely transmitted from humans to humans; but more often from animals including cattle, goats or pigs to their herdsmen or those who drink unpasteurised milk.

Brucellosis, whether caught from cows or goats, causes headaches, fever, aches and pains and a high evening temperature, which is often normal again the next morning. The onset of symptoms can be sudden; older country GPs who remember the disease will tell you that the sweat had a distinctive smell. Complications are rare but the bacilli can attack the heart, liver, brain or testes. Occasionally a chronic form occurs with recurrent symptoms, hence the term undulating disease, which can last for months. Treatment either of the acute or chronic form is with tetracyclines or streptomycin.



A 19th-century print: Malta fever is passed on from cows to herdsmen

Aussie wizardry

ABOUT one person in 5,000 has reason to be grateful to an Australian laboratory technician. They probably have Wegener's Granulomatosis, an auto-immune disease which characteristically attacks the nasal spaces, upper respiratory tract and lungs. The technician investigated the blood cells of a patient who, it was thought, might have had systemic lupus erythematosus.

The patient did not, but the technician's observations later led to the discovery of another auto-antibody which has proved a relatively easy way of diagnosing Wegener's Granulomatosis by the analysis of a blood sample.

The investigations also led to an estimate of the levels of the auto-anti-body, ANCA, which allows doctors to check the course of the disease. Treatment with steroids cyclophosphamide or Azathioprine enables 80 per cent of patients to recover. Before these drugs, the disease was often fatal.

Auto-immune diseases, of which Wegener's Granulomatosis is one, are those in which the body's defence mechanisms are turned against its own tissues. In Wegener's, the essential feature is a vasculitis, the inflammation and subsequent obstruction of the small blood vessels serving various vital organs. The respiratory tract is most in peril, but other organs, including kidneys, the brain and joints are involved.

Dr Martin Lockwood, a consultant physician at Addenbrooke hospital at Cambridge, and a specialist in the disease, said that chest physicians are the consultants who usually see these patients first. They, and general practitioners, should always suspect the disease when a vasculitis affects more than one site.

Beware the escaped gene

Colin Tudge, in the final extract from his book, asks if the earth is at risk from genes that are out of control



J.C.REVY/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

A computer representation of DNA, the genetic material of most living organisms, including the double-stranded helix with a core of nitrogen atoms (in blue)

The new genetics, the knowledge of life's mechanisms, and the powers that derive rom that knowledge, are stunning. The new technologies vill enable us, if we deploy hem properly, to alleviate ome of the worst of human uffering and do much to help s to save our fellow creatures 'om extinction. Yet we should e worried. There is much that ould go wrong.

The greatest scope for disasrs is in agriculture, the 'orld's biggest industry and ie leading perpetrator and ser of genetic engineering.

To be sure, the risks to uman welfare from transnic organisms in agriculture em slight, though they are orth listing. Notably, aniials that have been fitted with nes to produce extra growth ormone (say) could contain urplus quantities in their eat or milk, and have sideffects that could be, well, teresting. Food producers gue that such hormones oud be de-activated by cookg, and that the meat would screened to ensure that it ntained no residues.

But consumers might reasonable argue that while it is theoretically possible to screen meat to remove or pre-empt all possible hazards, we cannot take it for granted that this will be done. Consumers have, after all, been caught before.

More general and more worrying is the fact that the behaviour of a gene, once transferred from one genome to another, is innately unpredictable. Any one gene may behave differently (and even have quite different effects) in different genetic backgrounds. Genes introduced into a foreign genome can affect the behaviour of other genes, especially if introduced randomly, perhaps in the middle of some existing gene. Thus the genetic engineer might fit some new gene into a cow or a potato, blithely expecting it to increase milk yield or pest resistance, and find that the gene does a great many things as well.

Some of those "other things" could, in theory, be bad. Thus wild potatoes contain many genes that produce toxins (such as solanin), and domestic potatoes still contain some of those genes, even though they are mostly turned off. Many other crops, from parsnips to spinach, are known to produce toxins in low quantities — thanks to genes inherited from wild ancestors — and we do not know how many other potentially harmful genes our garden vegetables as a whole might contain, because we cannot at present detect the ones that are switched off.

But in theory, a newly introduced gene could trigger quiescent, ancestral genes that have the ability to produce toxins. Of course the breeder can screen for such dangers, but the screening is less than straightforward unless he has a clear idea of what kind of toxin he ought to be looking for, which might not be the case. Poisoning by transgenic parsnips is not among life's deepest pitfalls. But we should not assume too blithely that homely garden veggies are as benign as they seem.

Such points are merely caveats, not out-and-out condemnations. Risk is always a matter of pros and cons, and genetic engineering could equally well reduce existing dangers. In much of the Third World, for example, cancers of the fore-gut — oesophagus, stomach and liver — are far more common than in rich countries. The cause lies in large part with mycotoxins: toxins produced by fungi in crops. Genetic engineering that increased fungal resistance would save many more lives than it was ever liable to endanger.

Of much more tangible significance are the welfare implications of genetic engineering for farm *animals*. Already we can see over-blown turkeys crippled by hip degeneration, while broiler chickens simply outgrow their strength. Genetic engineering may not raise completely novel problems, but it will make it possible to produce more radical change, more rapidly: and rapid, radical change can be the hardest to legislate against.

But the greatest problems springing from genetic engineering in agriculture could be ecological: the influence of transgenic organisms that have escaped into the environment. Agriculture is not the only possible source, but it is the most likely one, because transgenic crops (and the microbes that may support them) are intended to grow outdoors, or at least in greenhouses that can never be fully secure.

Of course, by the time any transgenic organism escaped (or was released) into the environment we would expect to know a great deal about it. But any one gene joining a new host genome might mutate in unexpected ways and continue to affect, and be affected by, its fellow genes as the generations pass. By sexual reproduction the gene constantly finds itself in new company, because a shuffling of genes is the whole point of sex. So a new gene dropped into a gene pool is an unknown quality, whose full significance can be seen only as the generations unfold.

It is sometimes argued in a general way that a creature that has been bred and raised artificially cannot possibly compete in the great outdoors. Many an ecologist would love that to be true. To be sure, creatures that have been grossly overbred might be unviable: puffed-up turkeys that cannot mate, presumably, and overblown beef bulls that can hardly walk — although even these would presumably be leaner and meaner if they were not effectively force-fed.

Less extreme domesticates

> No one could have dreamt what devastation rabbits would cause in Australia

are often supremely versatile, and extraordinarily destructive. On islands worldwide, pigs and goats that were domestic for many generations have wrought terrible havoc: the pig alone in Hawaii has probably wiped out literally scores of native species. And the ravages of ex-domesticates are not confined to innocent islands. Former ships' cats, probably released in the 17th century, before James Cook arrived, are still steadily working their way across Australia, devastating the small native animals. Ex-domestic buffalo are currently trampling much of northwest Australia to pieces. Donkeys left over from the California Gold Rush — "burros" — are ousting bighorn sheep from the Rockies.

Creators of transgenic bacteria for laboratory purposes often incorporate some specific weakness — which usually means some special nutritional requirement — so that the organisms *cannot* survive if they escape into the wild. But here there are at least four caveats. First, bacteria are the supreme mutators. Second, bacteria have ways of passing genetic information from one to other, via plasmids, and so make good each others' weaknesses. Third, any organism is liable to find ways of getting around any weakness.

Finally, of course, organisms designed for agriculture — including bacteria — are intended to live in the outside world. Thus nitrogen-fixing bacteria engineered to confer pest resistance could prove highly significant. An "escaped" nitrogen-fixing plant might not smother the entire world but it could (and probably would) invade many a delicate ecosystem just as gorse (which is nitrogen-fixing) has invaded vast tracts of New Zealand, to the detriment of the native plants. Cereals are grasses, and as such are excellent "pioneers". A nitrogen-fixing grass would be a formidable competitor indeed.

However the overriding ecological consideration is that the introduction of exotic species is probably second only to straightforward habitat destruction as the principal cause of species extinction. The cane toad (introduced early 20th century), the rabbit and the fox (both 19th century) are all horrendous sources of destruction. All three were introduced for reasons that seemed innocent enough at the time: the rabbit for food, the fox for chasing, the cane toad to clean up pests in the sugar-cane fields of Queensland. In 20 years, Nile perch introduced into Africa's Lake Victoria have wiped out about 200 of the 300 native species of cichlid fish. The flora of New Zealand has largely been wiped by bracken and gorse. The brown trout of Britain have been largely displaced by introduced rainbows and hybrids. And so on and so on and so on.

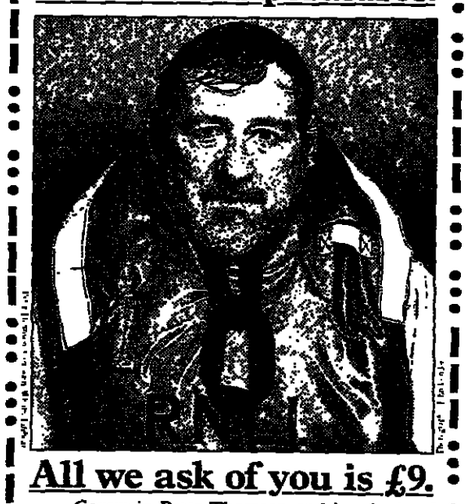
Engineered organisms that escape into the environment may not in practice be worse than any other creature that escapes, but we should never underestimate the sheer potential awfulness of *any* creature that escapes, whether it is a vector carrying a gene, a bacterium, or a chicken. We absolutely cannot predict the impact of any one new creature on any one ecosystem. No one in their worst nightmares conceived that rabbits in Australia would ever be more than an occasional addition to the pot.

Although individual disasters may well be extremely unlikely, something is bound to happen sooner or later, because nature is so profligate, and has so much time to play with. It seems, for example, that elm-tree seeds crossed the Atlantic *by air*, even after the ocean had assumed its present size. For an elm seed to make this flight requires a combination of air-currents so unlikely that the odds against it are, literally, on a scale that is astronomical — greater than the number of stars in a fair-sized galaxy. But if you multiply the number of seeds on a tree by the number of trees, and then multiply that by the millions of years in which such an event could have taken place, you find that nature is quite capable of dealing in astronomical numbers.

So, of course, it is extremely unlikely that any engineered gene will cause any particular organism to behave in a particularly unsocial fashion, and thereby have any noticeably adverse effects on the human species, or on the ecosystems of the world, but in nature, events that are extremely unlikely, happen. There can be few events more biologically unlikely than the present epidemic of Aids.

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Butterflies and painted ladies

Once a tattoo was a mark of low life — now they are high fashion, says **Julia Llewellyn Smith**

Isobel is 49, lives in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, and has a job representing a large hotel chain. She is the kind of woman you would tut-tut with at a bus stop about the rain. Corporate clients and casual acquaintances would never guess that there is a butterfly under her skirt, a growling tiger beneath her blouse and a squawking parrot behind the woolly tights.

Isobel is one of a growing number of tattoo fanatics, who spend every spare moment and all their spare cash filling in the gaps on their densely-patterned bodies. Last weekend she underwent hypnosis, to help cope with the pain of having a new tattoo on her foot. "It hurts a bit," she says, giggling, "but you forget the pain after two or three weeks, so I suppose it's worth it."

Ever since Captain Cook returned from his travels in the Pacific with tales of the painted bodies he had seen, tattoos have been worn by the unlikeliest people. King George V was tattooed when he was the Prince of Wales, serving on the *HMS Bacchante* in 1882. The former US secretary of state George Shultz has a tiger on his bottom and Lord Lichfield has a seahorse on his right arm.

On the whole, however, tattoos have meant bad news. Until recently they were the hallmark of bikers and convicts, of nightclub bouncers and Rottweiler owners, of dirty needles and grimy massage parlours. Getting a tattoo was the ultimate way to shock your mother, impress your mates and persuade a weedy barman to give you credit.

Today no self-respecting supermodel would be seen on the catwalk without a rose on her shoulderblade abd a dolphin on her ankle. Cher has a cross on her arm, Madonna (of course) has Marilyn Monroe's face on her bottom and the actress Béatrice Dalle has a bat, surrounded by barbed wire, on her back.

Mick Hucknall, the lead singer of Simply Red, has a tattoo in the form of the federal symbol of Europe — a far cry from the LOVE and HATE that once branded the knuckles of any rock 'n' roller. Before long, companies may be branding their employees with a corporate logo.

Tattooists now like to be called "skin artists" and tend to be art school graduates, versed in a history of body painting which goes back as far as the ancient Egyptians. Rather than painting a bulldog on your bottom, and a skull on your shoulderblade, they are more likely to persuade you that a Celtic pattern or a Japanese symbol are just the thing.

Dennis Cockell, a tattooist in Soho, says: "The rise in the number of customers in the past few years has been astonishing. Today, tattoos are very fashionable. More and more people are coming in, from businessmen to housewives. They used to be nearly all men, but I would say 40 per cent of my customers are women now."

Tattoos have become so popular that W.H. Smith has agreed to stock *Flesh Canvas*, the first British magazine for tattoo enthusiasts.

"Once there would be one or two tattoo events a year, attended by a few hundred people," says the magazine publisher, Mike Rick. "Now there is something going on almost every weekend." An estimated 7,000 people attended the annual Tattoo Expo in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, two weeks ago. According to Mr Rick, who is untattooed but has long hair, the desire to alter the body is a primitive urge. "People in every culture at every point in history have wanted to mark themselves, to make themselves feel different," he says.

"Maoris put bones through their noses, German aristocrats at the turn of the century would scar themselves to prove they belonged to an élite. If you think about it, it's a little bit strange that women today paint their eyelids blue and their lips red."

"Tattoos used to be the work of substandard artists on substandard people, so they were perceived as bad," he adds. "Now people see that a tattoo can be a wonderful piece of art. It is the kind of thing Picasso would be doing, if he were still alive."

A diehard fan like Isobel has no problem with the idea of being marked for life. "People say I'm mad, but it's my body and I'll do what I like with it," she says. Others, for whom tattoos are not so much a way of life as this week's fashion statement, are not so sanguine when they discover that what cost £20 to put on may cost as much as £3,000 to remove — and leave scars. Paula Yates was told last week that skin would have to be removed from her bottom to cover up the fish on her right arm.

The realisation is especially depressing if the tattoo was in honour of a lost love. Julia Roberts had to have plastic surgery to remove a Chinese symbol that was the gift of her jilted boyfriend Kiefer Sutherland.

The actor Johnny Depp is now faced with the task of finding a second girlfriend, named Winona, after he broke up with his girlfriend Winona Ryder. Winona Forever is emblazoned across his arm.

For those in doubt, a trial run is recommended. Transfer tattoos that last a few days are on sale in Boots. I had always been tempted by the needle, until I wore a fake tattoo in the form of a red rose on my arm, to the office one day. I have never endured so many shocked stares and horrified questions. Unless you work in a nightclub, are a pathological exhibitionist, or, like Isobel, are prepared to keep covered up all year round, you might be better off with a dab of blue eyeshadow and red lipstick.

GEOFF WILKINSON



When body art turned into high fashion . . . the actress Béatrice Dalle has a bat, surrounded by barbed wire, tattooed on her shoulderblade

Why Patten is talking like a worried man

JOHN Patten did not sound entirely confident during his conference speech yesterday. It must have been nervousness that made him announce the new Tory motto for education as "We want the best to follow the rest", instead of the other way round, for example.

No doubt the political commentators will explain this slight diffidence in purely careerist terms, for he has certainly had a hard year since his last conference appearance, but I wonder whether the reason may not be deeper and more interesting.

He went on not sounding entirely confident even when he reached the best bit of his speech, about the family values in which he manifestly strongly believes.



MARGOT NORMAN

Applause followed every sentence about the best incentive to education being something that only parents can provide, about it being "the family that gives a child a sense of purpose and belonging, binding not just parents and children but the whole community together". And yet was I being fanciful in detecting a note of doubt in his statement that "the family has always been fundamental to education and to the Tory party"?

To the former, yes, but to the latter . . .? True, the conservatives have always presented themselves as the party of the family but it has actually become quite difficult for a thoughtful Conservative like John Patten to stand up and claim that his government's policies are pro-family. On taxation, social security and childcare they patently are not.

Obviously, it is even more difficult than usual to assume the high ground on a day when a junior minister's mistresses are being paraded through the tabloids.

Margaret Thatcher's successors accept that there is such a thing as society, and that it is in poor shape. They have been much influenced by *Families Without Fatherhood*, a paperback published by the Institute of Economic Affairs last year. It was wholeheartedly recommended by both the institute's directors and Professor A.H. Halsey, a lifelong standard-bearer for socialism. John Patten was railing against sociologists and their woolly thinking in last week's *Spectator*, but an exception must now be made for Professor Halsey, the "repentant guru of the left" and now scourge of the comprehensives.

Like Mr Patten, Professor Halsey believes unequivocally that parents cannot escape responsibility for the quality of their children as citizens. Mr Patten said yesterday that the greatest threat to society was not the division between rich and poor but between those who had a stable, caring childhood and those who did not.

Professor Halsey said it should be universally acknowledged that children whose parents do not follow the traditional norm are disadvantaged for life.

Conservatives are happy to accept the book's conclusion that it is this bad start in life that is to blame for anti-social behaviour, rather than unemployment and bad housing. But what Professor Halsey says about the central fallacy of modern life — namely the belief that we are all better off if the individual maximises his or her choices — is more uncomfortable for them. Isn't this what Tories are always saying? And yet isn't it true that, as Halsey puts it, "the family is the age-old disproof of this contemporary nonsense"?

The professor spares neither right nor left: "Paradoxically, Mrs Thatcher may well be seen by dispassionate future commentators as a major architect of the demolition of the traditional family. For, by an irony of history, while Mrs Thatcher forebore to extend the ethic of individualism into domestic life and tacitly accepted that the family was the one institution that properly continued to embrace the sacred as distinct from the contractual conception of kinship, those who denounced her doctrines of market-controlled egoism with the greatest vehemence were also those who most rigorously insisted on modernising marriage and parenthood along her individualistic and contractual lines."

IN his *Spectator* piece, John Patten, who is a religious man, blasted away confidently enough at the soft, pseudo-religion of the social pseudo-scientists who give false answers to young people searching for answers to moral questions. He genuinely hoped more of them would now opt for the mind-stretching rigour of real science, and genuinely believed the national curriculum would help them to do so.

His admission that the big failure of his party had been to convince them of the "moral and scientific arguments of the superiority of market capitalism" was also confidently made, as though that failure could be made good.

I wonder if, as he lay in bed ill this summer enjoying that rare luxury for a minister, the chance to think, he didn't reach the conclusion that the case for market capitalism simply cannot be made at all in the context of the social problems he most cares about solving.

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Forename, other initials, surname	Relationship to applicant (e.g. wife/husband/son/daughter)	Date of birth DAY	MONTH	YEAR
1	SELF			
2				
3				
4				
5				

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who admitted . . . Antony Palmer QC, for the . . . mod an ambulance . . . again. . . . unpleasantly sodden and depressing; compressed into that one day; having . . . diabolically out of holing.

Janet Daley



■ A man's place is in the home, raising his sons with their mother. Without more father figures youth crime will soar

There is nothing abnormal about bad behaviour. There, I've said it. Let me go further: it is not surprising that young boys become anti-social when left to their own devices. Children such as the Rat Boy, whose nickname suggests that he is a freak, are only extreme cases of something that should have been predictable. Anyone who observes children will know that the natural inclination of most small boys is to be anarchic and amoral.

This tendency can be brought under control in the first instance by consistent discipline from adults, and in the second, by the boys' own maturity, which reaches them later than it does girls. Where girls, by the age of four or five, may be left to organise their own play, perfectly normal boys of eight or nine will run amok if not supervised. They do not have to be pathological cases to be delinquent and aggressive: just unrestrained and morally untutored.

It is not my purpose here to examine this gender difference: the argument about whether it is innate or the result of conditioning must be left for another day. What is pertinent for our purposes (and those of Michael Howard, who is much exercised by this matter) is that, contrary to the doctrine of Rousseau which has misled us for 200 years, children — particularly boys — are not born innocent and later corrupted by a repressive society.

In other words, we should not be asking ourselves how we can cure the incorrigible hard core of boys who are responsible for much of the crime committed in this country. Although many of them may indeed have problems such as low intelligence, they need not be thought of as bizarre cases for treatment. They are, almost undoubtedly, simply extreme examples of the kind of hyperactive, difficult child who is well known in every school. So, if boys have always been thus, why do we only now have an unprecedented social problem with uncontrollable young criminals?

Partly because we have made a conscious decision not to control them. Private and public morality is so saturated in the assumption that crime is *unnatural* — that it only occurs when something has gone disastrously wrong — that we have lost the skills for dealing with bad behaviour before it escalates. We do not regard vicious impulses as a normal part of childhood which it is our moral responsibility as parents, teachers and neighbours, to suppress until children learn to control them for themselves. Instead we are led to believe that we should be shocked and dismayed by them. Both as parents and as members of society, we are made to feel guilty for their very existence: what have we done, individually and collectively, to produce *this*?

All that we have done is to dismantle the apparatus which was best geared to manage the very difficult task of training young males. We have encouraged the growth of one-parent families by offering almost irresistible incentives to young women to remain single when they become pregnant and to keep their illegitimate babies rather than having them adopted by two-parent families.

To offer statistical evidence that single parenting is more likely to produce delinquent offspring, as much research has done, ought to be gilding the lily. If you accept that raising children is an occupation that requires constant vigilance and tireless attention, then the conclusion is inevitable that two parents can do it better than one. (And, for that matter, that extended families can do it better than nuclear ones.)

But welfare benefits and housing priorities have not by themselves created a new moral climate. The idea that women could — or positively should — raise children without men has a long philosophical pedigree. It goes back at least to Engels's theory that the family was a bourgeois institution devised only to protect the inheritance of property. The "right" of women to raise children alone is now taken as a fundamental civil liberty both by the feminist lobby and the mainstream political left who see single parenthood as simply a lifestyle choice.

> The natural inclination of small boys is to be anarchic

Making men surplus to requirements except, as A.H. Halsey has put it, as "genitals", has meant that the only really effective restraining presence on young males has been removed. But all this has been said many times. What remains for us to decide is whether any political changes — such as the cutting back of welfare benefits or changes in housing policy for unmarried mothers — are really to the point.

Has the social security system encouraged men to be irresponsible about fathering? Maybe. But could that have happened if male authority had not already declined? And might that decline not have created a culture that despises all forceful authority and which undermines even those fathers who are present? Certainly, the economic incentives cannot be ignored: nobody will look a welfare gift-horse in the mouth. But to control boys, we need a firm belief that what men can offer as parents is irreplaceable. And that, alas, cannot be legislated into existence.



Kenneth Clarke greets the press at the Treasury when appointed Chancellor. He should look to the past decade for his policy guide

Compete and conquer

Britain in the 1990s needs a good dose of the economic policies of the 1980s

William Rees-Mogg

Today Kenneth Clarke will address the Conservative party conference on the economy. Given his temperament, there is no danger that he will be too apologetic. Despite the past mishandling of the exchange-rate mechanism and the recession, he has a success story to tell, and one which may surprise his audience. I have the latest figures from Tim Congdon, who edits the *Gerrard and National Monthly Economic Review*.

Which of the major industrial powers increased manufacturing productivity most rapidly in the 1980s — that is from 1979 to 1989? One can go through the G7 list. Was it Canada? No. Canada's annual rate of productivity growth was a miserable 1.5 per cent. Was it Germany, before reunification? No, Germany had an almost equally stagnant rate of 2.3 per cent. Was it the United States? They did better, but only had a respectable growth rate of 3.4, close to France's 3.5 per cent. Now one comes to the high flyers, those whose rate of productivity growth passed 4 per cent. Italy comes in at 4.3, Japan — which in the 1980s one might have expected to come top — had an excellent 4.6; the British were best with an annual productivity growth rate of 4.8 per cent — the sort of rate which transforms a country's competitive position.

This excellent record has continued and even accelerated. In the year to the second quarter of 1993, the rate rose to 7.2 per cent. That is particularly significant, as productivity usually rises most rapidly in a period of boom, not in a year of late recession moving into early and hesitant recovery. Moreover, the British withdrawal from the ERM, combined with our refusal to accept the social chapter, has converted this growth of productivity into a real competitive advantage. The latest comparisons suggest that British labour costs are only half those of Germany, and about 60 per cent of those of France. In the new Japanese car factories British productivity is higher than that of Germany; both productivity and reliability are equal to the parent factories in Japan. Should an international company invest in the Ruhr or in South Wales? The Welsh have a decisive cost advantage.

Manufacturing productivity is the foundation of industrial competitiveness; it is also the best motive for industrial investment. Anyone would be crazy nowadays to build a car factory in Germany: they would have been crazy 30 years ago to build in Britain when we had higher labour costs and half the German growth in productivity. Investment will always follow productivity, and will always tend to raise productivity further.

Part of this growth has been a matter of catching up. Britain's record of manufacturing productivity in the decades before 1979 was disastrous. There is still plenty of room for improvement. Yet the 1980s saw a revolution in British productivity which can largely be attributed to six identifiable Conservative policies. They got some things wrong, but they got the essentials right.

Trade union reform probably had the greatest impact. Those who had to deal with the British unions in the 1970s will never forget the strength of their conviction that productivity was their property, which should be sold dearly, if at all. The trade union movement was the enemy of industrial efficiency; until its power was trimmed business could not become competitive.

The second policy was deregulation. The pity is that the early 1990s have seen a new wave of regulation, part, but not all, of it coming from Brussels. All regulation has costs in terms of efficiency. The third essential policy was the control of public expenditure. In continental Europe, industry has been loaded with social costs which account for a high percentage of the total cost of employment. So long as Margaret Thatcher was prime minister she was determined to keep the growth of public expenditure below the growth of the economy.

Nigel Lawson rationalised and reduced corporate and private taxation, and created a tax system with far fewer distortions and better incentives than had existed in 1979. There are criticisms to be made of Lord Lawson's credit and exchange policy; he remains the one great tax reformer of the second half of the 20th century.

Privatisation has also raised productivity. In cars — with Rover's deal with the Japanese — in steel, in telecommunications and in energy, private ownership has been followed by higher productivity. The quality of British industrial investment improved in the 1980s, which was remarkably free from political interventions to support dying industries. Trade union reform, deregulation, control of public expenditure, corporate and individual tax reform, privatisation and avoidance of politicised intervention were the framework for the rise in competitiveness. Conservatives would like to hear from Kenneth Clarke a reaffirmation of these policies for the 1990s. The fear is that they are all under attack from one side or another. Take, for instance, Labour party policy. If one looks at the six policies which in the 1980s put Britain top of the G7 productivity league, the Labour party has been opposed to all six of them. It still is. Now John Smith has done his deal with the unions; he has bought one member one vote at who knows what eventual cost in British prosperity and jobs.

The Labour party would reverse much or most of the union reforms; would welcome many additional British and Brussels regulations; would add to public expenditure and accept the European social chapter; would raise taxes on individuals and probably on corporations; would cease all further privatisations and increase subsidies to the public sector; would intervene in industry for political reasons. The Labour party remains what it has always been, a comprehensive and powerful political force for reducing the growth of productivity and making us less competitive. On all the essential policies of productivity the Labour party has been wrong since it was founded, and is still wrong.

The threat inside the Conservative party comes from the pro-European wing. Our European partners have not accepted the British revolution of the 1980s. Their trade unions have not been reformed: every act of industrial regulation has been replaced by a new regulation: their tax structures load social costs on industry; privatisation has not gone so far as in Britain; there is far more political intervention, culminating in the maddest subsidy of all, the £100 million common agricultural policy. Under the reactionary presidency of Jacques Delors, the European Commission has moved back towards the sclerotic socialism of the 1960s and 1970s, even though socialism was collapsing in the East.

At present, to be a good European has come to mean being a good socialist, being opposed to every intelligent measure to raise productivity and increase competitiveness. M Delors believes that the answer to Europe's lack of competitiveness is new and higher subsidies, which is like taking Prussic acid as an antidote to arsenic. This foolishness cannot last for very long, because Europe has already become the highest cost, highest unemployment region of the advanced industrial world. One of the tragedies of British politics is that the Liberals, who in their ancient history were the party of free trade, have now become the most Europeanist of all the parties.

If Mr Clarke can restore the Conservative faith in these successful policies, his other problems, including the budget deficit, will fit into a coherent strategic framework. The public is understandably confused about the Conservative party's aims: it is, after all, not possible to be the party of productivity and the party of Maastricht at one and the same time. The policies which have served Britain so well may collide with the ideological Kohl-Mitterrand-Delors coalition in Europe. But those anti-competitive Euro-federalists are a trinity of dead geese in any case.

Britain can only save Europe from long-term depression if we can convince our partners that world competitiveness is the economic battleground of the 1990s. To survive, Europe must be competitive with the United States, with Japan, with the emerging Asian nations, with low Eastern European costs. Britain proved in the 1980s that its policies produce results. Europe will only prosper if the EC follows the example of the Britain of the 1980s, not that of Britain of the 1960s and 1970s. The same is true, incidentally, of the Conservative party.

Too far, too fast for Russia

Western demands are excessive, says Anne McElvoy

However protracted and at times petty the power battle between Boris Yeltsin and his conservative opponents has been, it will at least go down in history as having ended with a bang rather than a whimper.

For a generation of international leaders and policy makers schooled in the postwar creed that political differences should be resolved with words rather than shots, the events have proved more unsettling than the West's measured response would suggest. The calm statements of support for President Yeltsin during the assault are likely to be superseded by some nervous spasms among leaders who, having backed radical reform in Russia as a central plank of their foreign policy, find their own credibility linked to increasingly unpredictable developments there. There are strong indications that Mr Yeltsin intends to govern autocratically.

When President Clinton, at his spring summit in Vancouver with the Russian leader, urged "Win Boris, win", he could not have predicted that it would take force to achieve victory. His top Russia adviser, Strobe Talbot, has so far skirted an answer on the question of whether policy modification is now called for. Doubts about radical reform and the West's role in promoting it span political divides. It was the robustly Republican senator Bob Dole who betrayed the first public wobble by a senior statesman when he responded to Monday's assault on parliament by saying: "I think when it's over, we're going to have to take a look at our fundamental relationship with Mr Yeltsin . . . We've put a lot of pressure through the World Bank and the IMF on Russia to immediately move to a market economy . . . and, of course, the result has been chaos and a lot of inflation. There are a lot of experts who think that it's precisely the wrong way to go."

When politicians start quoting "experts", it can be assumed that they are at something of a loss. For the past two years the monetarists have had the upper hand in Russia. The three main advisers to the Russian government — Professors Anders Ashund from Sweden, Jeffrey Sachs of the United States and Britain's Richard Layard — have been the academics given most credence by the West.

These three share the view that Russia needs shock therapy to jolt its citizens and institutions out of the moribund economic thinking of the communist years; unfettered price liberalisation, privatisation and strict control of the money supply are central tenets.

But the political consequences have been underestimated. The belated awakening came with the victory in recent Polish elections of former communists, which Mr Dole interpreted as a further indication that "we were pushing them too far, too fast". Even the most ardent advocates of rapid change will have heard the alarm bells in Moscow this week. The trouble is that there is no handbook of reform. Former Soviet republics such as Ukraine, which have balked at fast restructuring, are facing economic catastrophe.

Shock therapy produces an instant market in goods and services and encourages the birth of entrepreneurial spirit where none previously existed. Some Russians have found out that it works.

But many others — the low-paid, unskilled, middle-aged or pensioners — see little or no benefit accruing to them. They feel the shock of reform, rather than the therapy, and their resentments are exacerbated by the vast gap between themselves and the beneficiaries of change, all the more keenly felt in a society which was at least outwardly egalitarian.

At the height of its resistance to Mr Yeltsin this weekend, parliament mustered a demonstration of 15,000 people in its support. Take away the rabid nationalists and communists and the rest were largely culled from the economically disaffected. Their antipathy cannot be cured with force.

Mr Yeltsin's approach now seems to be to use the aftermath of the upheavals — when there is, in effect, no organised opposition — to press ahead with the creation of a strong state apparatus inside which reforms can continue. Elections will be held on his terms: freedoms of press and association are unlikely to be generous. From January, shops will be prohibited from selling Western goods for dollars, forcing all to embrace the rouble in an attempt to stabilise the currency. He is backing capitalism — even if he needs a welter of authoritarian decrees to achieve it.

These factors must surely shake the West out of its complacent assumption that democratic freedoms and economic reforms in Russia will be complementary and simultaneous. Having backed Yeltsin, even when he brought tanks onto the streets, the West can ill afford to drop him now. The result is likely to be that Western powers find excuses for undemocratic behaviour by the Russian leader in order to keep economic growth on course, feeling just a touch embarrassed over the pre-October days when they blithely believed they could have it both ways.

Archer out for Hunt

IT WAS a good job application, as job applications go. But probably not good enough. Few were in any doubt yesterday at Blackpool that Lord Archer's tub-thumping Tory party conference speech was a thinly disguised bid to be the next party chairman.

But while the rank and file cheered on the pulp novelist, his John Prescott-like approach is likely to have left John Major cold. Far from appointing Archer to one of the most crucial political jobs, the prime minister is thinking of putting David Hunt, the employment secretary, into the hot seat.

Major and Hunt, the former Welsh secretary, are close friends and political allies. Hunt is also one of the best orators on the government frontbench and can be relied on to stir the party faithful with his rabble-rousing attacks on Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

The problem is that, while Archer is capable enough of cheering up the party faithful and revitalising fundraising, he is not the Cabinet heavyweight that Major is determined should be in place for the next election. The most likely scenario, therefore, is for Sir Norman Fowler to be switched in the next reshuffle, probably in the summer. And Archer will be offered deputy chairmanship of the party as a reward for his efforts.

"It's not just the party chairmanship which David Hunt is being tipped for. Many people see him as John Major's choice as his heir apparent," says one former minister. Tell that to Baroness Thatcher.

● *Norman Willis is spending his retirement from the TUC in the artist's studio. A painting by him entitled* Balloon Salesman in Siberia *has sold at auction for £120, and he says there are more masterpieces on the way. His medium is neither oils nor watercolours. "No, it's what suits are made out of," he explains. He means acrylics, presumably.*

Striped for action

LITTLE do MPs realise what excitements lie in store when they return to the Commons after the recess in two weeks' time. Caterers' uniforms in the members' tearoom and the press gallery have been changed from the traditional dark green to broad vertical stripes of white and burgundy.

According to Sue Harrison, director of catering services, the new uniforms were chosen by the catering staff themselves and match the Pugin-designed wallpaper in the tearoom.

The question now is what will happen to the old stock. Harrison says they "may be donated to charity". Michael Fabricant, Tory MP for Staffs Mid, has written to Colin Shepherd, chairman of the catering committee, with a suggestion: "I know of a department store which is sending its old uniforms to Bosnia. If a department store can do it, why not the Commons?"

Ripping yarns

RIPPERMANIA is destined to continue despite the mixed reaction to *Shirley Harrison's Diary of Jack the Ripper*, which fingered, to many minds erroneously, Liverpool cotton merchant James Maybrick as the diarist and killer rapist. Two more books on the Ripper are on the way.

The first, due later this month, is John Wilding's *Jack The Ripper Revealed*, which claims that it will be the final chapter on the Ripper's identity. Then, next year, Melvin Harris, who is highly critical of Harrison's book, will publish his third title on the Ripper.

Wilding, an actor turned playwright, promises to provide documentary evidence which will lay to rest speculation about the Ripper's identity. "I am quite convinced that I have got the proof which would stand up in court." Haven't we heard these claims before?

Flower child

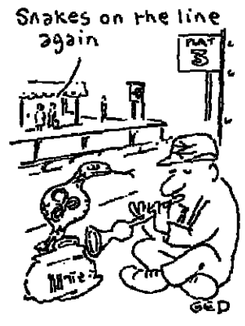
THE Rembrandts and Van Dycks of Chatsworth House are to be joined by a couple of lesser-known works bought by the Duchess of Devonshire at a private view in London this week.

Her grace's patronage was understandable, however. The two watercolours in question — one, a delicate portrait of yellow lilies (£1,000) and the other of narcissi (£500) — were executed by none other than her botanically-minded daughter, Emma Tennant.

This is not to say that Tennant's exhibition of botanical paintings to raise money for Prior Park, a romantic garden in Bath recently acquired by the National Trust, was short on buyers. No, at least half of the 70 plus paintings were sold. But while the Duchess bought one of the two most expensive works, Lord Chorley, the trust's chairman, who hosted the private view, demurred: "I suppose I ought to buy one really. But they're a bit pricey aren't they?"

Rattled snake

THE latest excuse for late trains? Snakes on board. Passengers waiting for the 20.38 train from London's Victoria station to Orpington this week heard and announcement that their transport would not be arriving because there had been a report of a "snake on the train". Not that this is common, stresses a BR spokesman: "Although I am told that in the Bromley area there is a man who travels with a snake in a plastic bag."



Feminist with teeth

GERMAINE Greer, who is renowned for setting men's teeth on edge, is having a few teething problems of her own. She has just been given 13 new ivories: the originals, she says, were disintegrating. Her only problem now is that she experiences a little difficulty on the lecture circuit.

"They cost a huge sum of money and my dentist is a genius," she says. "But I do find that I've a tendency to whistle occasionally when I'm giving lectures. I'm sure I'll get used to it eventually, or at least my audiences will."

Listening with particular interest to Greer's confidences at a party in London this week given by Channel 4's Michael Grade was Esther Rantzen. She says: "Yes, she was talking to me about it . . . but I really can't understand why."

OCTOBER 7 1993

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HOWARD'S BEGINNING

The home secretary makes a fine start to law and order reform

Michael Howard's exhilarating speech to the Tory party conference yesterday was populist in the best sense of the word. It addressed the anxiety of ordinary people about law and order and the rising fear that the criminal justice system is weighted in favour of the offender. Conservative home secretaries have often used their annual conference speeches to meet the party's desire for a muscular approach to crime. Few have offered such a substantial package of reforms to match their rhetoric.

Although the speech ranged from the reduction of police paperwork to the eviction of squatters, the underlying principles were clear. First, the Home Secretary intends to enhance the rights of the victims of crime by implementing the 11 relevant recommendations of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. Secondly he aims to strengthen the powers of those prosecuting crime: by giving the police extended powers to take DNA samples and abolishing the defendant's so-called "right to silence".

Thirdly, Mr Howard has explicitly renounced the discredited penal philosophy enshrined in the 1991 Criminal Justice Act. The size of the prison population is now intended to be dictated by the courts alone — with less weight for the Treasury's concerns over the cost of the prison service. Although the short-term problem of over-crowding remains, Mr Howard's announcement that six new prisons will be built by the private sector is an encouraging sign of the government's commitment to this difficult reform and of private firms' enthusiasm.

Much that the Home Secretary said will strike most people as mere common sense. The rule that the judge in a rape case must warn the jury of the danger of convicting on the women's evidence alone is indeed offensive and should be dropped. Few would disagree that community-work sentences need to be toughened up or that new guidelines on police cautioning are required. But in other respects Mr Howard was openly courting controversy, notably in his abrasive treatment of the "right to silence".

Civil liberty groups inevitably seized upon this point yesterday. In practice, however, all that is proposed is a change to the rules of evidence. Defendants will still have the right not to cooperate with police interrogation and cross-examination in court; but prosecutors and judges will now be able to draw a jury's attention to this decision. A suspect's silence will simply become an item of evidence. This reform is scarcely a major infringement of a defendant's liberty and may be a considerable social good. It should dissuade offenders from thwarting prosecution simply by saying nothing.

Surprisingly, Mr Howard had nothing to say about the Royal Commission's contentious recommendation that the right to elect jury trial be ended; nor did he add much to the increasingly fraught debate on police reform. How he responds to the Sheehy report on police pay and administration later this month will do much to determine the success or failure of these measures. Yet his speech was anything but evasive. It tackled directly an issue which has become an embarrassment to the Tories but could be one of their most reliable vote-winners by the next election. Mr Howard's performance combined the fiery style that inspires the party faithful with policy detail that will reassure the public. He must now ensure that his impressive proposals do not go the way of so many conference promises before them.

FROM THE HEART

Mr Patten has entered the endgame with China

A year ago the new governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, broke with years of British subservience to Peking. His strategy for democracy has transformed public debate. He promised a new, open and accountable, style of government; and set out proposals which would, before the handover to China in 1997, give constitutional form to the binding pledge set out in the 1984 Sino-British Declaration to preserve Hong Kong's way of life for at least 50 years thereafter.

Mr Patten had many successes to report to yesterday's annual address to Hong Kong's Legislative Council. In the past year Hong Kong has cut taxes, raised government spending and increased its reserves: brought government closer to the people; and completed or set in train no fewer than 103 plans to improve the colony's "quality of life". This year, its people will overtake Britain in per capita gross domestic product. Yesterday, Mr Patten made clear that his zeal for social reforms, and his conviction that Hong Kong's more vulnerable people deserve better protection, have only been whetted by his first year as governor.

Yet after a year of hostile pounding from Peking, with his electoral reform bill gathering dust and no hint of agreement on its provisions after 100 hours of Sino-British talks, Mr Patten's key task yesterday was to convince Hong Kong that Britain was both sincere in seeking to avoid confrontation with China, and unwaveringly determined to protect its promised autonomy after 1997. He had to meet his promise to keep Hong Kong's people, fed for weeks on a diet of Chinese whispers, properly informed without breaking the agreement to keep the content of the talks confidential. He had to reassure its democrats, without fanning anxieties about confrontation with China. He turned in a dazzling performance.

Britain, he told them, had shown "exemplary patience" and flexibility in the talks on the rules to govern Hong Kong's elections in 1994 and 1995, to which China finally agreed last April. In July and August Britain had offered two deep concessions — conditional on an overall agreement. These are certainly significant. In a retreat from Mr Patten's plans to give votes for the "functional constituencies" in LegCo to almost all Hong Kong's 2.7 million working people, the electorate could be reduced to around a million. Britain has also offered to meet China's demand that the Election Committee which is to elect candidates for 10 more LegCo seats be modelled on the China's Basic Law for post-1997 Hong Kong — provided that all the committee's members are elected, not nominated.

Mr Patten was insistent, however, that Britain would not "give away our principles in order to sign a piece of paper". Elections in Hong Kong must be made open, locally acceptable and impossible to rig — and China must agree not to eject those elected from the "through train" to life under Chinese sovereignty. Anything less would bring corruption, endanger the rule of law and put at risk many of the freedoms guaranteed in the Joint Declaration. Nor would Britain accept indefinite Chinese stonewalling: without setting an exact date, Mr Patten said that there were "only weeks rather than months" left to reach agreement.

This appears to mean that by next month, when Mr Patten comes to London for consultations, the die will have been cast — and that in the absence of a deal, he is determined to set his original proposals before LegCo. He is likely to have to do just that: there is no sign that China's unbending hostility to any laws that would make a reality of the celebrated "one country, two systems" formula propounded by its leader, Deng Xiaoping is merely a negotiating ploy. In an appeal to Hong Kong's people, who will then have to decide what risks they are prepared to take to defend their freedoms, Mr Patten reminded them yesterday that "Liberty stands in the heart. When it shrivels there, nothing can save it." His steady determination to give them the choice has the ring of true leadership.

A STATION OF ONE'S OWN

The government's plan to sell off railway stations is flawed

Until now only players of Monopoly have been able to buy up London's stations and levy charges on those passing through. But Kings Cross and Liverpool Street may soon be among the handful of the country's leading termini that are to be sold off, on long leases, to private developers with the promise of untrammelled development and money-making on some of the most valuable commercial sites in Britain.

John MacGregor's proposals appear sound enough. The government wants to harness the wealth and bravado of the private sector to make the stations not only more attractive, more comfortable and more like airports, but to generate enough concourse revenue to ensure the upkeep of some of Britain's most striking Victorian architecture. Quick bids for these great assets in Britain's railway heritage will, he hopes, dispel some of the scepticism now surrounding the whole rail privatisation programme.

In the current state of the railway privatisation debate, such arguments are less than persuasive. Stations already generate revenue, bringing in a healthy £48 million last year. The rail system needs investment. Cross-subsidies can mitigate losses and keep down fares. Mr MacGregor clearly has in mind the kind of massive commercial exploitation that has transformed most American termini into shopping malls vital to the regeneration of inner cities. But the impact there upon the primary function is not encouraging. The trains allowed nearest to most American stations are the quaint replicas of old-time steam engines set up near the hamburger bars. Despite the promise of stringent regulation under the MacGregor plan — yet another piece of bureaucracy in a scheme already half-strangled in red tape — the temptation to put shops and offices in the prime sites and hide away waiting rooms and ticket offices will be overwhelming.

The orange signals are already flashing at every stage of this tangled privatisation plan. It might make sense only if the demarcations between the various operating and supervisory functions were yet clear. Even then, to deprive the franchisees, who will assume responsibility for the other 2,450 BR stations, of the prestigious and revenue-generating grand termini is to risk further the already threatened aging urban stations and unstaffed rural halts. Stations are not airports, and developers may be unconvinced of the commercial advantage from people rushing through at full-tilt to catch the 6.18. Like the rest of the privatisation plan, too many assumptions are being made that, instead of developing the endangered rail system, could run it into the buffers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Armed forces to be a 'paper tiger"?

From Field Marshal Lord Bramall

Sir, The Secretary of State for Defence is to be congratulated on the robust words he used at Blackpool (report, October 6) about the danger that any further defence cuts could turn the armed forces into a "paper tiger" which, as others from the floor reminded delegates, could not easily be revitalised.

Many of us in both Houses of Parliament have been saying exactly that for some time, and it now remains to see whether the Ministry of Defence view will prevail or whether the Treasury will have its way, with all those serious consequences.

But my experience in Whitehall tells me that there is only one person in the government who can tell the Treasury to "back off" and that is the prime minister; and I am quite certain that by now, with the international scene still so tense and uncertain, Margaret Thatcher would have told the Treasury ministers that enough was enough, that they had had their "peace dividend", and that no more could be safely taken away.

It will be interesting to see whether the present prime minister has the strength and inclination to do the same.

Yours faithfully,
BRAMALL
(Chief of the General Staff, 1979-82),
House of Lords.
October 6.

The Tory task

From Dr Christoph C. Lees

Sir, I find the criticisms of Mr Major from the ranks of his own party bewildering. At the time of Mrs Thatcher's political demise three years ago, her successor was seen as a leader of integrity, a consensus politician distant from the free-market excesses of the 1980s. This he still is, but he has fallen prey to the fickleness of his erstwhile supporters.

The government will survive only if it discards its 1980s dogma and returns to a more universal brand of Toryism.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPH C. LEES,
30 Eaton House,
Vicarage Crescent, SW11.
October 4.

From Mr Mark Woolfenden

Sir, If John Major is to leave Blackpool with a united party behind him he must reaffirm a number of Conservative principles upon which the party has held power since 1979: low taxation, low inflation, strong law and order policies, and getting government off the backs of the people. He should remember that the government should live within its means, just as the public and industry are expected to do. There is also a need for a reshuffle, so that some younger members of the parliamentary party are promoted with new ideas and enthusiasm to govern.

Yours sincerely,
MARK WOOLFENDEN,
5 Reform Street, SW8.
October 5.

From Mrs Barbara Boyd

Sir, Unlike Mr Eric Simpson (letter, October 4), I thought that last week's Conservative party political broadcast was brilliant. It was not aimed at the Tory faithful, but at those who, just like the couple depicted, are sitting in front of the "box" and would not usually have considered watching a party political broadcast, but whose attention (I have no doubt) was riveted to the screen. A non-political couple were being asked to think about this government's real achievements. I believe it will have worked.

Yours sincerely,
BARBARA BOYD,
4 Willow Grove,
Beverley, East Yorkshire.
October 4.

From Mr Jack Bleiman

Sir, I believe in the right to silence. Indeed I go further. In one case there should be a duty of silence. I refer, of course, to former prime ministers.

Yours sincerely,
JACK BLEIMAN,
12 Ellington Road, Muswell Hill, N10.

From Mr Frank Wintle

Sir, Whilst one appreciates the reasons why politicians like Lord Parkinson ("Kitchen cabinet Toryism", October 6) need, in difficult times, to stress the need to concentrate on policies, not personalities, I suggest the first can have no existence independent of the second. Everything depends on the relative vigour and clarity of the minds and mouths which are formulating, transmitting, modifying and enacting the policies.

Which is, perhaps, why the message emerging from the Conservative party at the moment sounds something like "send three and fourpence (plus VAT), we're going to a dance".

Yours,
FRANK WINTLE
(Managing Director),
PanMedia Ltd,
4 Providence House,
Providence Place, N1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Burdens imposed on parents by new child support law

From Mr James Pirrie

Sir, The examples of problems recorded in your report of September 30, "Child maintenance cases risk swamping the courts", are the tip of a vast iceberg. The Child Support Act affects all connected to second families.

This issue was never about whether parents who did not live with their children should contribute financially to their support. The many parents and spouses contacting us now all accept this responsibility. They insist, however, that the sum they pay must be a fair one.

Under the formula required by the Act, fairness will be achieved only accidentally and only in a minority of situations. A formula which ignores whatever house or other capital has been paid over in the past to a former spouse or partner and ignores whatever debts must now be met by the paying party will not generally achieve fairness.

Indeed, it will often impose insupportable burdens on the lives of all those trying to recover from the consequences of family breakdown.

No undertaking by the Child Support Agency to review its formula can be acceptable. The formula is laid down by Parliament. The CSA has no discretion about how it should operate so as to make any real difference. Such an undertaking would do nothing to answer the fears of the women and men who are writing to us in a state of desperation, not knowing how they can possibly make ends meet.

And what, meanwhile, happens to those people now separating who are trying to sort out with their lawyers fair solutions at minimum cost? The figure thrown up by the formula underpinned the negotiations. Now we do not even know what it will be. Do we stop dead whilst the CSA decides what to do and then deals with the wave of applications for re-assessment?

There are potentially millions of people who will be affected by this law. Clearly it is operating unjustly and unwisely and an urgent re-assessment is required.

Unless prompt and astute action is taken, this government may face problems to match those it faced with the poll tax.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES PIRRIE
(National Committee Member),
Solicitors Family Law Association,
PO Box 302,
Keston, Kent BR2l 6EZ.
October 1.

From Mr Oliver Gravell

Sir, In the past week I have had two clients come to me in despair as a result of a Child Support Agency assessment. In both cases a settlement had been negotiated before the Child Support Act 1991 had been enacted whereby a "clean break" was achieved, with the ex-wife taking all the substantial equity in the former matrimonial home in settlement of all claims. To compensate the fathers, agreements were reached that nominal maintenance would be paid for the children.

While it is possible to argue that the basis for such settlements was flawed because it took no account of the ongoing costs of bringing up children, that is not the point. The clients had come to this agreement, in good faith, that this was the correct way to proceed. In each case the court had endorsed the agreement exercising the obligation on it to consider whether a clean break was appropriate.

Both clients voluntarily took over the substantial family debts. Both now have maintenance assessments they cannot meet from their limited resources, having rehoused themselves. Both have new wives whose former partners are unemployed and whose own child support maintenance contribution will therefore be at a nominal rate.

Both clients have received a bill for £78 from the Child Support Agency for the "service" which has been provided to them. Both have also been told they are in arrears on child support maintenance of almost £1,000 because it took the CSA two months to carry out the actual assessment and advise them.

Both clients are applying for legal aid to overturn the original agreements to seek maintenance from the mothers in order to be able to pay back to them the child support maintenance ordered. The taxpayer will be footing the legal bill which results from the mayhem produced by a measure designed to save the taxpayer money.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER GRAVELL,
Russell Jones & Walker (solicitors),
Swinton House,
324 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
October 1.

From Mrs Lynne Jones

Sir, I am appalled and puzzled to read of the decision by the new Child Support Agency to make Mr Leslie McLean increase his child maintenance payments to his ex-wife from £123 to £473 per month (report, September 30).

The CSA booklet states that if you have an existing child maintenance arrangement (as Mr McLean clearly did for seven years) then the agency will only take such cases on after April 1996. I found this to my cost this summer when, representing myself, I faced my ex-husband's solicitor and barrister in a county court.

For ten years my ex-husband paid £100 per month maintenance for our two children (now 15 and 13 years old), who live with me. We both remarried and formed second families, though I was subsequently widowed. On reviewing the maintenance payments the judge decided that, despite our relatively similar household incomes (he is a university lecturer and I am a secondary school teacher), the child maintenance be reduced to 5p per annum. In our case, unlike the rigid CSA formula by which (according to your report) the father's debts, school fees and costs of childcare from his second family are not taken into account, all these factors were fully considered.

Do we have two laws operating simultaneously? One "penalising responsible fatherhood", to quote your leader of September 30, the other penalising responsible motherhood?

Yours faithfully,
LYNNE JONES,
Tredarrup Farm,
St Neot, Liskeard, Cornwall.

From Mr P. G. Jones

Sir, Having examined the CSA booklet, I find that the contributions which I pay towards the upkeep of my three children could increase by 30-40 per cent. This extra could only be financed by visiting them a good deal less. It would be cheaper for the children to live with me, a prospect which I would welcome but is unlikely to meet with any enthusiasm from their mother.

So what can I do? Do I pay more to see my children less? Do I refuse to pay the extra and take my chances in court? Do I hope to persuade the CSA that parents already paying voluntarily are probably doing their best already? Dare I suggest that their targets may be reached by examining those who pay nothing? Do I run away to South America and leave you to pay it for me?

Yours etc,
P. G. JONES,
5 Windsor Road,
Petersfield, Hampshire.
October 1.

Rude awakening

From Mrs Angela Kilmartin

Sir, Last Saturday I drove my 19-year-old son to Coventry University for his first term and waited as he collected lodgings keys from the students' union hall. Thrust into my hands upon his return to the car were not the expected keys — they came second — but a large pink condom, mounted upon a sheet of card.

Must grown-ups really do this to our pleasantly brought-up children in so public a way?

Don't preach all the reasons for condoms at me, I know them. But can't we just have a little return to some sort of decorum?

Yours,
ANGELA KILMARTIN
(Author of *Sexual Cystitis*),
75 Mortimer Road, N1.
October 1.

Partly furnished

From Mrs Jacqueline Woolass

Sir, Recently in need of new office furniture and equipment, I telephoned ten office suppliers in the area to ask whether they produced a catalogue. Only one of these offered to send me a copy before being asked, and two weeks later I have received a catalogue from only three out of the ten.

If these companies were asked whether the recession was still adversely affecting them, would they have replied yes or no?

Yours faithfully,
JACQUELINE WOOLASS,
The Physiotherapy Centre,
136 Braunstone Lane, Leicester.
October 5.

Courageous Short

From Mr Dan E. Mayers

Sir, Nigel Short should be given great credit for the courageous attacking chess he has consistently played against the world champion, Garry Kasparov. Such matches are usually characterised by caution: boring draws abound — in the first match between Kasparov and Karpov in 1984-5, for example. By comparison, the present match is a bare-knuckle heavyweight brawl. It is highly entertaining, and the first time anyone has attacked Kasparov in this unawed fashion.

Short has lost games that should have been drawn and drawn games that he should have won — a pity. He will surely have better luck in the remainder of the match. Whatever the outcome, the public should be grateful to both players for the entertainment.

Respectfully yours,
DAN E. MAYERS (Member,
Marshall Chess Club, N.Y.C.),
Lorien, Wadhurst, Sussex.

Cathedral manners

From Mr David Irons

Sir, Ruth Gledhill, in writing on September 28 about the "swirling flood of tourists" in our cathedrals (also letter from the Dean and the canon responsible for visitor care, Canterbury, October 4), tells us that stewards have to learn how to ask visitors to remove their hats.

As a steward in Bangor, I have come across this problem. However, I have also discovered that the men who keep their hats on, especially the Americans, are frequently Jewish, and that their head cover is a mark of respect.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID IRONS,
Bryn Hyfryd,
Llansadwrn,
Menai Bridge, Gwynedd.
October 4.

D-Day anniversary

From Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall

Sir, Mr Oliver Holmes (letter, September 30) hopes the Germans will be invited to participate in the D-Day anniversary celebrations. He may be encouraged to know that the British members of the Anglo-German Officers' Association share his views and that I, as the British president, have been invited to represent them.

It would be sad indeed if we could not look to the future while remembering the past.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL BAGNALL,
Cavalry and Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1.
October 2.

From Mr Nicholas Albery

Sir, To commemorate *The Times* World Chess Championship, could not a large chess board with hip-high pieces be created, perhaps outside the café in St James's Park or in Regent's Park, or in some other such place where there is reasonable security?

On two instances when travelling, once in Ludwigsburg in Germany, and once in the city centre of Lausanne, I have felt immediately integrated into local life by playing on their giant open-air chess boards, with spectators urging me on as to what my next move should be.

I feel the lack of similar places in London. Indeed, if every school had such a board in its playground, we might see a few more Nigel Shorts.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS ALBERY (Chairman),
The Institute for Social Inventions,
20 Heber Road, NW2.

Tobacco advertising

From Professor Richard Peto, FRS

Sir, Tobacco is still responsible for more than a quarter of all UK deaths in middle age, and 90 per cent of smokers begin in their teenage years. Nobody familiar with modern marketing techniques can doubt that the vast amounts now spent on tobacco promotion must have some effect on the proportion of children who choose to smoke. If these resources were used for other purposes, both money and lives would be saved.

As the Department of Health searches for the most cost-effective ways of avoiding premature death, why does it continue to oppose protection of children (and adults) from widespread exposure to commercial pressures to smoke? On November 4 European Community health ministers are expected to vote on whether to ban the main forms of tobacco advertising.

Most EC countries favour this ban, as does the European Parliament and a majority of UK public opinion. Yet, since two thirds of the votes are needed for positive action, this majority view can be overruled if, as now seems probable, the UK exercises its deciding vote for the continuation of tobacco advertising.

Are the commercial freedoms of tobacco manufacturers more important to the Secretary of State for Health than the freedom of parents to protect their children from subtle commercial pressures to become addicted to a destructive habit?

Yours etc,
RICHARD PETO,
ICRF Cancer Studies Unit,
Oxford University,
Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
October 5.

Sir, I refer . . .

From Mr Alan S. Dennett

Sir, I sympathise with your correspondents' addiction to reference books (letters, September 11, 16, 27). *Cooks Continental Railway Timetable* was always my favourite Christmas present. But hand me any timetable (rail, road or air) and I immediately start planning a complicated journey. I always travel first class (club in the United States) with a reserved window seat (non-smoking), back to the engine.

I choose a train with an excellent restaurant car and I only have the lightest of hand luggage. I enjoy my fellow companions seeking my advice and asking me to confirm their own travel arrangements. I have over 40 years' happy memories of imaginary railway travel.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN S. DENNETT,
2, Delaford Avenue,
Worsley, Manchester 28.
October 3.

Business letters, page 27
Sports letters, page 40

HONDA

from Walsall, who admitted Antony Palmer QC, for the man an ambulance again.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 6: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited Henry Poole and Company, 15 Savile Row, London WI.

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon attended the Children in Cities 1994 Champions Luncheon at KPMG Peat Marwick, Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4.

The Princess Royal, Patron, SENSE, the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association, later opened the new Head Office, 11-13 Clifton Terrace, Finsbury Park, London N4.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the National Autistic Society, afterwards opened 57 Halliday Square, Hanwell, London W12.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 6: The Prince of Wales this morning departed from Royal Air Force Northolt for a visit to Istanbul.

Sir Derek Dodson (Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and took leave of His Royal Highness.

Mr Stephen Lamport and Commander Robert Fraser, RN, were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 6: The Princess of Wales, Patron, the London Symphony Chorus, this evening attended a Performance of Mozart's Requiem at the Barbican Centre, London EC2.

Miss Alexandra Loyd and Captain Edward Musto, RM, were in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
October 6: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy this evening attended a Gala Performance of *Sunset Boulevard* in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and SOS (Stars Organisation supporting Action for People with Cerebral Palsy) at the Adelphi Theatre, London WC2.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Miss Jenny Abramsky, editor, News and Current Affairs, BBC Radio, 47; Mr Christopher Booker, author, 56; Sir Colin Chandler, aviation expert, 54; Mr Shura Cherkassky, pianist, 82; Mr Joseph Cooper, pianist and broadcaster, 81; Sir Zelman Cowen, QC, former provost, Oriel College, Oxford, 74; Sir Andrew Derbyshire, architect, 70; Professor Harold Dexter, organist, 73; Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Fletcher, 77; Dr Mark Girouard, architectural historian, 62; Lord Glenarthur, 49; Mr B.M.S. Hoban, former head master, Harrow School, 72; Mr Terence Hodgkinson, former director, Wallace Collection, 80; Mr Clive James, writer and broadcaster, 54; Mr Thomas Keneally, author, 58; Lieutenant-General Sir Derek Lang, 80; Mr R.J. Perry, governor, Gartree Prison, 46; Sir John Stocker, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 75; Major-General Julian Thompson, 59; Miss Jayne Torvill, ice skater, 36; the Most Rev Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town, 62; Sir Colin Walker, chairman, East Anglian Regional Health Authority, 59.



Yo Yo Ma, the cellist, is 38 today

Spectacle Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Spectacle Makers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr Mohammed Jalfe; Upper Warden, Mr David Evershed-Martin; Renter Warden, Mr Robert Alfred Ingham.

Information Technologists' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Information Technologists' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr Peter Monson; Senior Warden, Alderman Sir Brian Jenkins; Junior Warden, Mr Ric Fool.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Ralph Abercromby, general, Meastrie, Clackmannanshire, 1734; Caroline Anne Southey, poet, Lymington, Hampshire, 1786; Niels Bohr, atomic physicist, Nobel laureate 1922, Copenhagen, 1885.

DEATHS: Giovanni Guarini, poet, Venice, 1612; Antonio Sacchini, composer, Paris, 1786; Thomas Reid, philosopher, Glasgow, 1796; Edgar Allan Poe, writer, Baltimore, Maryland, 1849; Oliver Wendell Holmes, physician and writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1894; Walter William Skeat, etymologist, Cambridge, 1912; Sir Hubert Parry, composer, Rustington, Sussex, 1918; Alfred Deakin, prime minister of Australia 1903-04, 1905-08 and 1909-10, Melbourne, 1919; Marie Lloyd, music hall singer, London, 1922; Harvey Cushing, pioneer of neurosurgery, New Haven, Connecticut, 1939; C.R.W. Nevinson, painter, London, 1946; Mario Lanza, tenor and film actor, Rome, 1959.

The bell was salvaged from the *Lutine* which sank off the coast of Holland; 1799. It was later presented to Lloyd's of London.

The far side of the moon was photographed for the first time and pictures relayed back to earth by the USSR's *Lunik III*, 1959.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit the Kvaerner Govan Shipyard, Glasgow, at 12.15.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of Turning Point, will open Hazel House, 67 Warwick Road, SW5, at 11.00.

Prince Edward will attend the Radio Authority lecture at Merchant Taylors' Hall at 7.00 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Independent Radio.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Riding for the Disabled Association, will attend a council meeting and luncheon at Saddlers' Hall at 11.10; and, as President-elect of the Chartered Institute of Transport, will attend a past presidents dinner at the Royal Over-Seas League at 7.10.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President of the Cancer Research Campaign, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, will attend an evening of opera at St James's Palace at 7.15.

Lord Haskel

The life barony conferred upon Mr Simon Haskel has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Haskel**, of Higher Broughton in the county of Greater Manchester.



MICHAEL POWELL

The Princess Royal is shown a state coachman's coat being made for the royal mews by Keith Levitt during a visit to Henry Poole and Co in Savile Row, London yesterday. The company, founded in 1806 and royal warrant holders since 1869, has clothed such figures as Disraeli, Dickens, Livingstone and Churchill

Diabetes appeal evokes spirit of H.G. Wells

BY ANDREW PIERCE

H.G. WELLS couldn't have written a better ending. The British Diabetic Association, borne out of a letter to *The Times* from the author of *The War of the Worlds*, is about to celebrate its sixtieth anniversary.

In the letter on April 19, 1933, the author appealed for £800 to set up a national diabetic association. Wells, who suffered with diabetes, made the appeal 12 years after the discovery of insulin had spared him from a "slow and uncomfortable death".

Willie Rushton, the satirist, is today evoking the spirit of the H.G. Wells letter by writing to national figures, with diabetes, to try to persuade them go public in time for next year's anniversary.

Rushton says: "I want any well known figures to come out. Everyone seems to know someone who is a diabetic. I hope they will show them my letter. In the true spirit of the H.G. Wells prose, which I refer to in my more humble offering. I am hoping to lure people out into the open."

In his letter, H.G. Wells wrote: "I suggest that it would be a becoming thing for the elect class of grateful diabetics to whom I appeal to tax themselves for the benefit of our cult. If 40 of us would put up £20 each the thing would be done.

"When I think of the relief our treatment has given us and the real invigoration, the bracing effect, of its clear and rational discipline, £20 seems to me a small sum."

The author was not prepared at that stage to get too carried away with the idea. "I will not let my imagination run to an Annual dinner for Old diabetics, or to the organized propaganda of our simple requirements among cooks and hotel restaurant proprietors."

But, in fact, the idea became much more. The organisation — the patron is The Queen — has 140,000 members, 400 voluntary branches, and a full-time staff of 78 at its headquarters in central London. It raises £10 million annually, and last year contributed £2.7 million to research.

The president is Sir Harry Secombe. The actor Leo McKern, better known as Rumpole of the Bailey, is another prominent supporter. A series of events is planned for each month in 1994 to mark the anniversary. One of the highlights will be a commemorative service at Westminster Abbey next summer.

Three groups of people with diabetes will scale Snowdon, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike. A gala dinner is being held in London to mark the actual anniversary on March 16. A London film premiere will be held in honour of the association.

While the association has grown, a cure has still not been found, and there are now 750,000 people known to have diabetes, a further 250,000 are thought to have it, but are undiagnosed. More than 60,000 cases are discovered each year. Willie Rushton said: "It's not bad for me. Two jabs a day. It is the kids I feel sorriest for. They will never know what a Mars bar tastes like."



H.G. Wells: spared by insulin from death

Latest wills

Mr Leonard Edward Rowan **Bentall**, of Broughton, Hampshire, left estate valued at £2,305,243.

He left £1,000 equally between the Old Bentallians Association and the Bentalls Over 40 Club, for special outings in his memory, and £40 to each member of the Bentalls Over 40 Club who survives him.

Col John Harold Ernest Joseph **Carroll-Leahy**, of Swarraton, Alresford, Hampshire, who fought in both world wars as an artillery officer, and was joint master of the Duhallow Hounds, co. Cork, left estate valued at £318,658 net.

He left his shareholding in Tide Water Oil to the Disabled Army Personnel Widows and Orphans Fund, £50 to Dromahane Children's School, and a silver cup to be selected by his wife to Dromahane Tennis Club.

Other estates include (net before tax):

Mr John **Prince**, of London W2, late chartered accountant £1,332,023.

Mary Elaine **Raven**, of Wallington, Surrey..... £609,720.

Patricia Ruth **Bodycote**, of Leire, Leicestershire..... £780,734.

Miss Alice Elma **Delves**, of Midhurst, West Sussex... £701,737.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Mark Cartledge, CMS Missionary in Nigeria: to be Full Time Chaplain to Liverpool University (Liverpool).

The Rev David Chance, Team Rector, Northam w Westward Ho (Exeter): to be Vicar, All Saints', Banstead (Guildford).

The Rev Jonathan Clark, Anglican Chaplain, Bristol University: to take up a post with the Southern Dioceses Ministerial Training Scheme.

The Rev Terry Evans, Vicar, St Jude, Cantril Farm: to be Vicar, St Ann, Rainhill (Liverpool).

The Rev Pamela Fawcett, Honorary Curate, Trunch group of parishes: to be Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Bishop's Consultant for Women's Ministry (Norwich).

The Rev David Fletcher, Vicar, Haydon Bridge: to be *also* Priest-in-charge, Beltingham w Henshaw and *also* Rural Dean of Hexham (Newcastle).

The Rev Stephen Gallagher, Assistant Curate, Hartlepool, St Paul's: to be Rector, Lofus-in-Cleveland and Carlin How w Skinningrove (York).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.H. Boyle and Miss G.M. Buggy
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T. Boyle, of Mark Beech, Kent, and Gabrielle, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Buggy, of Foxrock, Dublin.

Mr S.T. Compton and Miss H. Grinberg
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs T. Compton, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Grinberg, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Dr R.M. Dawood and Miss G.E. Whitby
The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of Mr and Mrs N.J. Dawood, of London, SW7, and Gillian, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Whitby, of Glasgow.

Mr C.H.B. Dorin and Mrs S.J.N. Pallant
The engagement is announced between Charles Dorin, of Marylebone, London, and Sarah Pallant, of Battersea, London.

Mr D. Forbes-Nixon and Miss C.E. Baker
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs John Forbes-Nixon, of Stoke Bishop, Bristol, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Baker, of Groombridge, Sussex.

Mr N.A. Hudson and Miss S.C. Corbett
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of the late Mr A.C. Hudson and of Mrs E. Hudson, of Wetherby, Yorkshire, and Susannah, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Corbett, of Shobdon, Herefordshire.

Mr M.P. Stanley and Miss W.J.H.H. Wethey
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of the late Mr P. Stanley and of Mrs F. Stanley, and Jean, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs I.H. Wethey.

Mr W.M. O'Kelly and Miss A.L.B. Foulds
The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Captain and Mrs Michael O'Kelly, of South Harting, West Sussex, and Anna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Foulds, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr A.J. Smith and Miss C.H. Kerr-Dineen
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs R.E. Smith, of Worthing, West Sussex, and Christabel, daughter of Mrs Kerr-Dineen and the late Canon F.G. Kerr-Dineen, of Cocking, West Sussex.

Mr J.P.B. Terry and Miss S.H. Agar
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr Richard Terry, of Kent, and Countess Manners, of Menorca, Spain, and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Agar, of Comber, co. Down.

Mr H.S. Thistlethwayte and Miss C.L.E. Bullman
The engagement is announced between Hugo, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robin Thistlethwayte, of Adderbury, Oxfordshire, and Charlotte, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Joe Bullman, of Avening, Gloucestershire.

Marriage

Mr A.H. Shaw and Miss M.C. Parker-Jervis
The marriage took place at St Mary's, Longworth on Saturday, October 2, of Mr Andrew Hank Shaw and Miss Mary Clare Parker-Jervis. The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Simon Parker-Jervis, and was attended by Simon Morley, James Gibson, Charlotte Allen and Emily Robbins.

Dinners

Chartered Accountants' Company
Mrs B.M. Culverhouse, Master of the Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, assisted by Mr F.B. Harrison, Senior Warden, and Mr J.M. Renshall, Junior Warden, presided at the installation dinner held last night at Chartered Accountants' Hall. Earl Howe, the Senior Warden and Sir Francis Dashwood also spoke.

Guild of Freemen of the City of London
Sir Clifford Chetwood, Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London, and Lady Chetwood were the hosts at a dinner held last night at Trinity House. Commander and Alderman Sir Robin Gillett was the speaker.

Law Society
Mr Rodger Pannone, President of the Law Society, the vice-president and council entertained the Treasurer and Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple at dinner last night at Law Society's Hall.

Reception

Office of Industrial Tribunals
Mr Geoffrey Heggs, Regional Chairman of the Office of Industrial Tribunals, London North, gave a reception last night at Middle Temple Hall for members of HM Judiciary, chairmen and members of the region and other guests.

Sir David Brown

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir David Brown will be held at St Peters Church, Eaton Square, SW1, on Monday, October 11, 1993, at 11.00am.

Colonel and Mrs John Clarke

A service of thanksgiving for the lives of John and Averil Clarke will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Wednesday, November 10, at noon.

Luncheons

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Mr Michael Chamberlain, President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, and members of the Council gave a luncheon yesterday at Chartered Accountants' Hall. The guests were The Lord Mayor Sir Francis McWilliams, GBE, Mr Alderman and Sheriff John Chalstrey, Mr Alderman Neil Young, Mr Alderman Roger Cork and Officers of the Corporation of London.

Vizards
Mr Christopher Oldham, Senior Partner, entertained at luncheon on October 4, Señor Hernan Errazuriz, Ambassador of Chile, and Señora Errazuriz at 42 Bedford Row, London, WC1. Also attending were Señor Fernando Hafemann, Chilean Commercial Counsellor, Mr Michael Ashe, Barrister, and Mr Michael Ellman, Mr Ronald Perry, Mr Daniel Hockman, Mr Richard Foster and Mr Martin Lewis, all partners at Vizards.

State Opening of Parliament

The Queen will open Parliament at 11.30am on Thursday, November 18, 1993.

Peers who will be present at the ceremony may apply for places in the Chamber for their peeresses or husbands, and for eldest sons or daughters above 14 years of age.

A limited number of seats in the Royal Gallery will be available for guests of members of both Houses of Parliament. Members of the House of Commons should apply for these seats to the Speaker's Secretary, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Applications from peers, using the forms issued to those eligible, should be sent to the Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW, by Friday, October 22, 1993.

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At that moment the cock crowed for the second time; and Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will disown me three times'. And he burst into tears.
St. Mark 14 : 72 (REB)

BIRTHS

ARENDS - On October 1st at the Wellington Hospital, to Susan (née Touche) and Trevor, a daughter, Isiah Valerie Touche-Arends.

BRADSTOCK - On 6th October 1993, to Anna and Rupert, a son, James.

FAZIO - On October 6th, to Chizuru (née Inoue) and Marcus, a beautiful daughter, Mia Jane, a sister for Amy.

GRANT - On October 5th at the Wellington Hospital, to Laura (née Posner) and Jonathan, a precious son, Louis Anthony Spencer and a brother for James.

HENSLOW - On 1st October 1993, to Sara Louise (Martin) and Captain Brian John Spencer, a son, Miles Spencer.

HESS - On 2nd October at Grenolier in Vaud, to Sara (née Brauen) and Bernard, a son, Harry Richard David, a brother to Timothy. Deo Gratias.

HOWARD - On September 23rd, to Virginia (née Purkis) and John, a daughter, Harriet Elizabeth, a sister for Rupert and Emily.

JOLLY/SEARS - On 26th September, to Carlo and Sarah, a daughter, Lauren Brierley Marianna.

LOWER - On October 6th, to Annie and Adrian, a daughter, Lily Mathilda, a sister for Freddie and Zoe.

PEDLEY - On October 4th, to Alison (née Shakeshaft) and David, a son, Thomas Richard David.

RAYNER - On 4th October, at Joseph Brant Hospital, Toronto, a daughter, Keira, to Deidre (née Boyd) and Graeme.

BIRTHS

ROGERSON - On October 3rd 1993, to Sarah (née Sain-ley-Berry) and Mark, a daughter, Madeleine Lucy Anne.

SHEATH - On September 28th 1993, to Susan (née Woodleyl and Antony, a son, Benjamin James Loris.

SPEERS - On October 4th 1993, to Penelope (née Ling) and Matthew, a son, Nicholas James, a brother for Claire.

VAZ-FERREIRA - On October 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Kathryn (née Wood) and George, a lovely son, Nicolas, 8lbs 7oz. First grandchild for Joan and Charles Wood and Nina and Raul Vaz-Ferreira.

DEATHS

BAILEY - Pat, on 2nd October 1993 at the Royal Brompton Hospital. Beloved wife of Robin, mother of Nicolas, Simon and Justin and grandmother of Sally, Lucy and Edward. Funeral details from: (081) 874-7698. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, for the Royal Brompton Hospital may be sent to Messrs & Cotterill Funeral Directors, 169 Merton Road, Wandsworth, SW18 5EF.

BOUTROY - On Tuesday October 5th at the Longview Residential Home, near Perranporth, peacefully after a long illness, Louie of the Mansell Collection. Private cremation in Cornwall. No flowers please. Details of formal interment of ashes in London will be announced later. Enquiries tel: (071) 229-6478/1946.

DEATHS

CALDIN - Kathleen Mary (Peggy), on 4th October aged 86, peacefully in hospital, sister of Edward (Ted) and aunt of Hugh and Giles. Requiem Mass will be on Monday 11th October at the Church of St Thomas More, Lordship Lane, Dulwich, London SE22. Flowers to Uden & Co., 375 Lordship Lane, London SE22 by midday 11th or if preferred, donations to the Catholic Housing Association c/o Uden & Co.

CHAPPELL - On October 5th 1993, peacefully in hospital, Alan Kingsley, aged 79. Husband of Josephine, father of Jane and Sarah. Cremation private.

CLARIDGE - Marie Innes, on September 29th, aged 74. At Carhaix, Brittany, after a long illness. Those who knew her, especially on Gozo and in Italy, will remember her courage and individual character.

CLUCAS - On October 6th 1993, very suddenly in Royal Surrey County Hospital, Barbara Hunter of Godalming, Surrey. Wife of Ken, mother of Jill and Susie. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium on Tuesday October 12th at 11 am. Memorial Meeting to be arranged at a later date. Enquiries to J. Gorringe & Son, Funeral Directors, 55 Hare Lane, Godalming, Surrey. tel: (0483) 416403.

DEATHS

DUFTY - Dick (Arthur Richard) on October 5th unexpectedly but peacefully in his garden at Kelmscott, loving husband of Jean and previously of Kitty, much loved father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. Private cremation, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving for family and friends on Monday October 11th at 2.30pm at St George's Church, Kelmscott. A Memorial Service in London to be announced later. No flowers by request, donations for St George's Church, Kelmscott, c/o E. Taylor & Son, Chapel Lodge, Corbett Road, Carterton, OX18 3LG. tel: (0993) 842421.

FLETCHER - On October 5th 1993, John Brett Fletcher CBE, beloved husband of Margaret and a loving and much loved father of Christopher, Ann, Madeleine and Jeremy and proud grandfather of ten. Requiem Mass at St Joan of Arc Church, Farnham, on Tuesday October 12th at 1.45 pm followed by interment at Farnham Cemetery. Floral tributes and enquiries to H.C. Patrick & Co., 86 East Street, Farnham, Surrey. tel: (0252) 714884.

GLENARTHUR - On 6th October 1993, peacefully at Stakeford, Margaret, beloved wife of the late Matthew, Lord Glenarthur. Funeral and Service of Thanksgiving at St Ninians Church, Troon on Monday 11th October 1993 at 2.30 pm. Thereafter private. Family flowers only please.

DEATHS

GOODMAN - On October 4th 1993, peacefully at home, Richard Thomas Goodman aged 75, Freeman of the City of London, Liveryman, Worshipful Company of Carmen, husband of Shelagh Marie Goodman (née Brown), father of Stephen, Diane, James and Geoffrey. Will be sadly missed by all his family. Funeral Service at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, on Tuesday 12th October at 3 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home c/o H.C. Grimstead Ltd., tel: (0753) 891200.

GREER - On 28th September 1993, peacefully after a short illness, Wing Commander W. Kenneth Greer A.F.C. (Paddy) aged 71 years. Beloved husband of Jean. The funeral has already taken place.

GURNEY-TAYLOR - On 20th September 1993, Natalie Gurney-Taylor, widow of Dr. F. Kraus Taylor. Memorial meeting at 22 Redington Road, Hampstead, London NW3, at 12 noon Thursday 28th October.

HENDERSON - Peacefully at home on October 5th, Rosemary (Bunty) aged 81 years. Last surviving child of Angus and Winifred Tulloch of Aldarley Edge. Mother of Gillian, Alison and James. Funeral Service at St Peter and St Paul Church, Wingrave, on Monday 11th October at 11am, followed by private cremation. Donations, if desired, to The Donkey Sanctuary. c/o Matthews & Son Funeral Directors, Victoria Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes.

DEATHS

JAMES - Peacefully at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, on Saturday October 2nd 1993, John, aged 69, historical novelist and author. Funeral on Friday October 8th 12.30 pm at St Ives Parish Church.

JEAKES - On October 5th at Cleeve Hill Nursing Home, Cheltenham, Kathleen Olga, aged 94 years. Widow of Maurice Jeakes of Ingle Spring, Stanford Dingley. Much loved Aunt of Pip and Richard Vickers. The funeral service will take place at Cheltenham Crematorium Chapel on Friday October 15th at 12 noon. Enquiries to Selina Smith & Co. tel: (0242) 525383.

MILWYN-MORGAN - Suddenly in Ridgewood, New Jersey, on Sunday October 3rd, Richard, son of Arthur and the late Betty, darling husband of Marie-Thérèse, much loved father of Juliet, David and Danielle and father-in-law of Thomas. Funeral will take place on Friday October 15th at 11am at Clyne Chapel, Swansea. Donations to The Mumbles Lifeboat Fund, R.N.L.I. c/o Midland Bank, Newton Road, Mumbles.

PATTERSON - On October 5th, peacefully, Hugh Proudfoot, FCA, aged 90 of Chipping Campden, after a most courageous fight. Beloved husband of Anne and a much loved father and grandfather. Service at Cheltenham Crematorium at 12 noon on October 12th. No flowers by request. Donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research or Macmillan Nursing Services.

ROBERTS - Dr. F.M. died October 1st 1993 at her home in Cornwall. Cremation service Glynn Valley, Bodmin, on Thursday 7th October at 11.45 am, followed by committal at Shevlock Parish Church at 5.30 pm.

DEATHS

SHIBLEY - On 29th September at the Italian Hospital, Amman. Rose, dearly loved wife of the late Adib Shibley of The British Embassy, Amman. Funeral Service on Tuesday 12th October at 4 pm at Golders Green Crematorium, West Chapel. Flowers and enquiries to W.G. Miller, 95 Essex Road, Islington, N1 2SJ. (071) 226-3696.

STROLOGO - Marianne Elizabeth (née Savicka) lately of Mayes Green, Surrey, died peacefully in Bergerac Hospital on 25th September after suffering bravely. Much loved and mourned by Eric and her daughter Jacqueline and son Mark, she was buried on Tuesday 28th September in Riocaud (Gironde, France) Church Cemetery after a beautiful service well attended by her friends and village neighbours. She lives on.

VAN-OLLENBACH - Peacefully on 2nd October 1993, Aubrey William of Barnham Manor Nursing Home, Barnham, Bognor Regis, aged 85 years. Much loved husband of Nora. Enquiries to Reynolds Funeral Service, 31 High Street, Bognor Regis, tel: (0243) 864746.

WOOD - On 2nd October, peacefully at home, William, formerly of HMOCS (Tanzania), University, United Nations and World Bank. Much loved husband of Shirley and father to Robert, Richard, Susan and John. The funeral took place on 4th October in Liber, Spain.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

PECK - Rory, 4th October Moscow, Funeral 2 pm Monday 11th October Glendermott Church, Londonderry.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DILL - A Memorial Service for Major Richard Dill will take place at St Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, at 12 noon on Wednesday 27th October.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

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OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL MICHAEL WHISTLER

Major-General Michael Whistler, CB, CBE, Signal Officer-in-Chief in the War Office, 1960-62, and chairman of the Joint Communications Board, 1962-64, died on September 30 aged 83. He was born on December 30, 1909.



FEW greater distinctions could have been bestowed on a member of the Army's Royal Corps of Signals than to be appointed by Earl Mountbatten — a communications specialist himself — as the first chairman of the Joint Communications Board and director of the Joint Signals Staff in the new Ministry of Defence, set up as part of his revolutionary unification of service ministries in Whitehall in 1962.

"Mickey" Whistler had just finished his tenure as Signal Officer-in-Chief of the Army, during which he had been grappling with the problems of rebuilding his corps on an all-regular basis at the end of National Service, when Mountbatten's summons came.

He proved himself just the right man for the job at that time. A strong, technically competent and cheerful personality, he started the long process of pulling the three services' communications policies together without undue friction, and setting the pattern for joint service communications at national and international level, which is still in use today.

The son of a Sussex parson, Alwyne Michael Webster Whistler was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, and at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, before being commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals in 1929. He left for India two years later, where he served for the next 14 years. He was a fine horseman, an accomplished polo player and Master of the Norbudda Vale Hunt. He had ideas of transferring to the Indian Cavalry to join the polo-playing Prince Albert Victor's Own. Had it not been for the outbreak of war he might well have done so. Tony Sanger, the well-known Indian Army polo player, was his son's godfather.

He was commanding the Bershawr District Signals as a lieutenant-colonel when the Japanese invaded Burma in January 1942, and was given the immediate task of raising and commanding the signals regiment of 25th Indian Division, which fought with Philip Christison's 15th Corps in the Arakan, earning him two mentions in dispatches.

His career widened after attending the Staff College, Camberley, in 1944. Although he was initially sent back to the Far East and to signals appointments it was not to be for long. He commanded 19th Indian Division's signals during the preparations for the reoccupation of Malaya and was then officiating chief signals officer to 12th Army in Burma.

Returning home in 1945, he had a spell of public relations in Germany, which was followed by his appointment as military assistant to the C-in-C BAOR in 1946; as an AQMG in the War Office in 1949; and as chief signals officer of the 3rd Division in the Middle East in 1951. There he ran the polo in the Canal Zone and was put up to five handicap.

His most crucial appointment came in 1954 when he took over the GSO1 of Signals 5 in the War Office, the key policy branch of the Signals directorate. Seeds were just being sown for the advanced communications systems for the 1980s, codenamed "Hobart". He then went back to the all arms staff for a time before being promoted brigadier and given the command of 1st British Corps' Signals in 1958. He was appointed CBE a year later.

He became the professional head of his Corps in 1960. He was known to all ranks for his genuine interest in their welfare and for the importance he attached to career management. Besides the challenge of organising Royal Signals on to an all-regular basis, he steered the final version of the "Hobart" plan through the Army Board in 1961, from which flowed the very successful "clansman" range of tactical radio equipment and the equally successful "Ptarmigan" area communications system.

His last job in the Army was as Mountbatten's first tri-service communicator from 1962-64. He set up the first joint signals staff drawn from single service departments; established their joint procedure; devised working relationships between sea, land and air communicators; and acted as the guinea pig for other joint service staffs, which were to be set up later. He was appointed CB in 1963.

When he retired from the Army in 1965, he went to live in Scotland but decided to migrate south again to Wareham, Dorset, because of his wife's ill health.

In describing him in a farewell appreciation, *The Wire*, his Corps journal, said of him that he was "never very orthodox and a bit of a cavalryman by nature (he was only put under arrest twice!). He often referred to himself as 'poacher turned gamekeeper' and perhaps it was this refreshing attitude to life that made him so successful."

He married Margaret Louise Michelette, daughter of Brigadier-General Malcolm Welch, CB, CMG, JP, in 1936. They had one son and two daughters. His wife died in 1986. His children survive him.

JUDGE COLIN WOODFORD

His Honour Judge Colin Godwin Patrick Woodford died on October 1 aged 59. He was born on January 13, 1934.



THE only chief inspector of police ever to be appointed to the Bench, Colin Woodford had become one of the most respected circuit judges in East Anglia before he was killed in a road accident while driving to Norwich Crown Court.

Having left school at 16, he served an apprenticeship in the family business as a baker and confectioner before serving in the Royal Air Force (Police) between 1952 and 1954. He joined the Essex Police Force in October 1954 and was promoted to sergeant ten years later, inspector in 1966 and chief inspector in 1969.

During his term of service he was commended five times and served with distinction in the Essex Fraud Squad where he became known for his meticulous preparation and scrupulous fairness. In middle age events conspired to direct him away from the police and towards the Bar.

He read law at London University between 1968 and 1971 and in 1972 was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple. That same year he became a pupil of Ronald J. Trott at 3 Hare Court. (Ironically, they had in the past been on opposing sides in a number of trials at Chelmsford.) In 1973, having completed his pupillage, he joined the same chambers as a tenant and soon established a large criminal practice in London and East Anglia.

Despite his success in London his heart never left East Anglia and it was no surprise to his friends when he left in 1982 to join Wensum chambers in Norwich. From that base he returned to the skills he had acquired in the police and became a specialist in fraud work undertaking many of the larger prosecutions for fraud in that county.

Appointed a recorder in February 1989, having sat previously as an assistant recorder since 1984, he became a circuit judge in January 1991.

His personal qualities guaranteed that he would become a good judge. He had no time for the pompous and remained essentially a man who treated everyone he came across as an equal, irrespective of their station in life. Judicial reputations are made and lost in the robing rooms of the circuit and it was here that his practice, courtesy and balanced approach to cases became quickly recognised. He was a popular judge to appear before in both civil and criminal actions.

In private life he was a practising Roman Catholic and had many interests outside the law. He was a keen sailor and was often found off the East Anglian coast crewing for one of his many friends. He made regular trips through the inland waterways of England by canal boat. He also had an abiding interest in communication and computers, which stemmed from his time with the police. He was one of the few judges who was not only computer literate but also used his laptop at court each day.

Those privileged enough to have enjoyed his friendship will have found him a generous host and a delightful companion albeit with a mischievous sense of humour. He had a deep love of music, both classical and modern, and claimed to possess a complete set of recordings by Frank Sinatra which he would share with guests after remarkably little encouragement.

Colin Woodford, who was twice married, is survived by his wife Jane and their daughter, together with two son and a daughter from his first marriage.

PENELOPE SPENCER

Penelope Spencer, dancer, choreographer and producer, died on October 3 aged 91. She was born on December 30, 1901.



Woodcut of Penelope Spencer dancing in "Funeral March on the Death of a Rich Aunt", 1926

IN A monograph which he published about her in 1931, Arnold Haskell wrote: "Penelope Spencer belongs to no company or group. She is entirely self-sufficient, she comes from no particularly traceable tradition, and her work forms, therefore, an exceedingly fascinating study." By the time Haskell was writing, the most interesting and adventurous part of Penelope Spencer's theatrical career was over. She married in 1931 and had determined to devote herself to family life rather than to the theatre, but in the previous decade, her work as dancer and movement producer placed her vitally in the world of English music of the time.

The daughter of the distinguished minerologist Leonard Spencer, Penelope Spencer studied dancing from the age of 11 with a variety of teachers, but most significantly with Margaret Morris, the leading English "free" dancer of the time. With Morris, she was to learn not only about dancing, but about its potential with painting and music in the theatre, thanks in part to her meetings with Angus Morrison, Eugene Goossens and J. D. Fergusson, Morris's husband.

At Margaret Morris's suggestion Penelope Spencer went to Glastonbury to help Rutland Boughton with the dance movement in his opera *The Immortal Hour* in 1919. She cried, as she later recorded, at the "mountain of work there was to do", but her success was such that she was invited to join the board of the Glastonbury Players, and until 1923 she worked with enormous devotion during the annual music seasons and summer schools. She provided movement for the operas, trained the singers and dancers for the productions and, despite what she described as a certain "frightful intensity and earnestness" about Glastonbury, gained invaluable experience, working with Boughton, and meeting Laurence Housman, John Drinkwater and Bernard Shaw.

At the request of Sir Hugh Allen, Penelope Spencer also started teaching dancing and stage movement at the Royal College of Music and provided the dances in two operas staged at the college: Vaughan Williams's *Hugh the Drover* and Gustav Holst's *Savitri*.

In the early 1920s Penelope Spencer began giving recitals of her own dances. Her art was essentially the creation of character-sketches in movement, where acute observation was allied to a secure and eloquent technique. Haskell's admiration for her art as "a creative dancer ... the greatest of her type I have seen in any country" is testimony enough to her originality and to the breadth of her appeal: her dances could be as different in manner as the exquisite "Laideronette" or the "Funeral March on the Death of a Rich Aunt" (to Lord Berners' music of the same name) or the "Elegiac Blues in Memory of Florence Mills" — a singer who inspired Penelope Spencer — which Constant Lambert dedicated to her.

The uncertainties of English dancing during the 1920s meant that a performer such as Penelope Spencer had to seek work in the theatre, pantomime and music hall, as well as in recitals which she shared with Leon Goossens and Harriet Cohen. She appeared as principal dancer with the British National Opera Company between 1922 and 1924, and at the age of 20 produced the dances — with a cast of fifty — for a staging of *Tannhauser* at the Coliseum. Her gift for creating movement, and for inspiring movement in singers and actors as well as dancers, led to extensive work with Sybil Thorndike and Lewis Casson, and with Nigel Playfair at the Lyric, Hammersmith, between 1924 and 1928.

After her marriage to Lowis Barman in 1931 she retired from the stage, although she made one last production — *The Birthday of the Infants*, which was staged for the Camargo Society in 1932, with a score by Elizabeth Lutyens and design by Rex Whistler (his first for the theatre). Thereafter, she continued occasional teaching of mime at RADA and, with her husband, devoted much time to the service of the Royal Academy of Dancing. She was a woman of great charm with a delightful sense of humour whose artistry and contribution to the English music and theatre scene were of real worth. Her husband died in 1972 and Penelope Spencer is survived by three sons.

GRIGORII TUNKIN

Grigorii Ivanovich Tunkin, a leading international lawyer of the Soviet Union, died in Moscow on August 23 aged 86. He was born in the Arkhangel'sk province in northern Russia on October 13, 1906.

GRIGORII TUNKIN was widely regarded as the Soviet Union's principal legal architect of peaceful coexistence and a strong proponent of the rule of law in international relations.

Of peasant stock and religious upbringing, he graduated from a forestry technical school in 1928 and the Moscow Juridical Institute in 1935. His *kandidat* thesis, defended in 1938, was devoted to the English parliamentary reforms of 1832. Following a year in an academic position at the All-Union Legal Academy, he joined the USSR diplomatic service in 1939, serving in Iran, Canada and, following the second world war, in the First Far Eastern Section of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The latter assignment brought sustained concentration on Asian affairs; he edited a collection of North Korean legal documents under a pseudonym and wrote a massive doctoral thesis on The Korea Problem in the Light of International Law, for which the degree was conferred in 1955.

From 1948-51 Tunkin was minister-counsellor of the Soviet embassy in North Korea, returning from 1951 to 1952 to his ministry as head of the First Far Eastern Section.

In May 1952 Tunkin was appointed chief legal adviser to the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a position which he held until August 1965, when differences with Foreign Minister Gromyko caused him to accept the Chair of International Law at Moscow State University, together with adjunct appointments. Shortly after his legal appointment in 1952, Tunkin registered disagreement with Professor E. A. Korovin's thesis of the existence of two international laws: bourgeois and socialist. Setting out, again under a pseudonym, what came to be the foundations of peaceful coexistence and the dominant theme to this day in Soviet and Russian international legal doctrine, Tunkin argued that "agreement between States" lies at the base of international law. This proposition he developed under his own name in a brief but enormously influential pamphlet (1956) published by the Higher Party School attached to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In due course the pamphlet was enlarged into a monograph (1962) and a fully-fledged treatise, *Theory of International Law* (1970), published in London and Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1974.

Although a loyal party member, he disapproved of the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and he resisted in the 1970 and 1980s the efforts of some Soviet colleagues to develop theories of a socialist international law.

In 1957 he played a leading part in founding the Soviet Association of International Law, serving as its only president from that date until his death. He represented his government in a variety of international legal capacities, including the Geneva conferences on the law of the sea, the Antarctic Treaty negotiations, the Vienna conference on diplomatic intercourse and immunities, among others.

At the time of his death he was completing a major multi-volume work on the international legal system. A liberal in the mid-1950s, he found some aspects of perestroika diplomacy difficult to accept, and his published articles on the revisions of peaceful coexistence demanded by the new international relations were noticeably reticent in comparison with those of younger colleagues.



LILLIAN DE LA TORRE

Lillian de la Torre-Bueno McCue, writer of historical detective stories better known by her pen name Lillian de la Torre, died in Colorado Springs on September 13 aged 91. She was born in New York City on March 15, 1902.

LILLIAN de la Torre boasted an ancestry as exotic as her name. On her father's side she claimed descent from Don Juan de la Torre, one of Pizarro's famous 13 conquistadors who conquered Peru. On the maternal side was a Puritan named Pratt, who should have been on the *Mayflower* but missed the boat and had to follow his party in the ship *Ann*.

With such a background, an obsession with history was a natural consequence, but de la Torre combined it with an insatiable thirst for detective stories. Her own writing career, however, began fairly late in life, after she conceived the idea of using Dr Samuel Johnson as the central character in a series of books on real-life mysteries in 18th-century England.

"Here was a man," she wrote later, "learned, fearless, penetrating, lovable, and full of idiosyncrasy: he lived in an age full of the most extraordinary violence, fraud and chicanery. And he comes with his own ready-made Watson, the peer and prototype of Watsons, James Boswell himself, with his notebook to record his exploits."

Having found her formula, de la Torre began to produce a series of short stories for the *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, publishing her first book *Elizabeth is Missing*, in 1945.

Centred on the disappearance of maidservant Elizabeth Canning near the Tower of London, a *cause célèbre* in 1753, the book was an instant critical success. A review in *The New York Times* said she had combined "the scholarly patience of a candidate for a PhD with the ingenuity of a Nero Wolfe."

Her husband, George McCue, died in 1984.



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SUNDAY AT ST ANDREWS

... There is nothing, so far as my experience goes, in the least like it. Some people — poor, superficial, restless creatures — may say that it is dull: that "it sheds a gentle melancholy upon the soul." To my mind it is the most perfect and enjoyable of all rest cures, and I deliberately set out on the Saturday night in order to revel in it. There is romance in the fact that on Sunday morning the train does not go to St Andrews, and we must drive from Cupar, but the genuine thrill only comes with the big room in the Club house after breakfast. And of these Sundays mine this time attained the heights of poignancy. The wind moaned, there was an ugly grey sea — beautiful in ugliness — with the white horses chasing one another, and the wind blattered, if I have the word correctly, against the long window. Everything looked — to the unseeing eye — unspeakably sodden and depressing;

ON THIS DAY

October 7 1933

Not even bad weather could diminish the affection of Bernard Darwin, the Times writer and golfer, for St Andrews, as expressed in this extract from one of his Saturday columns.

but I loved it. The room was rather cold, but soon a fire was lighted; the crackling of it, together with the crackling of Sunday papers, each one concealing a member sitting deep in his armchair, were the only sounds that disturbed the peace. There was not even a chance of going the usual Sunday walk as far as the burn and back, and so the day wore slowly and serenely on. All the restful virtues of all the long sea voyages were compressed into that one day: having felt rather tired and lazy, I was by the end of it a creature transfigured, itching to get at the ball with juvenile zest on Monday morning. That one day of glorious rain made the Old Course itself once more.

We all have our own standards, and mine is that, except for the really big hitters, there is no nonsense about getting up in two at the long holes, no trying impudently, and also as a rule imprudently, to carry hell with the second shot. The greens were as nearly perfect as anything can be in an imperfect world, and they were genuinely seaside greens. They were not icily keen, but they were quite fast enough to bring out one of the greatest and most testing merits of the course: the approach shot which anywhere else would leave the ball 10 yards from the pin leaves it 20 yards away at St Andrews: the putt which we can swear is going to lie stone dead seems in some mysterious manner to gather pace in the last yard or two, and so slips unobtrusively but diabolically out of boling.

• Passengers as cargo • European competition fears • Cuisine leaves bad taste

TRAVELOGS

Branson suggests no-window aircraft

AIRLINE passengers this week reacted with incredulity to proposals to build long-range jumbo jets without windows.

The idea, floated by Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic, in a chat with executives of Airbus Industrie, is to build an airliner with video screens in place of windows.

Airbus executives agreed to ask for passenger reaction. John Parr, director general of the Airline Users' Committee, gave his immediately. "I am sure there are many passengers, like me, who like to look at clouds," he said. "I think it would be very unnerving to sit in an aircraft without windows, especially for anyone who might suffer, however slightly, from claustrophobia." Mr Branson thinks that cargo aircraft, already flying without windows, could be adapted to have screens down one side showing mountains, sea, art or even films, rather than "boring" clouds.

Must fly, on time

CONVENIENT flying times are the most important consideration for business travellers when choosing an airline, according to a new survey. A total of 83 per cent of respondents specified departure and arrival times as one of three key factors influencing selection, with more than half nominating it as the single most important consideration. Past experience and the airline's safety record tied for second place. Frequent-flyer programmes, booking incentives and the air fare shared joint third place, according to the business travel survey by ABC Executive Flight Planners.

Transatlantic cargo

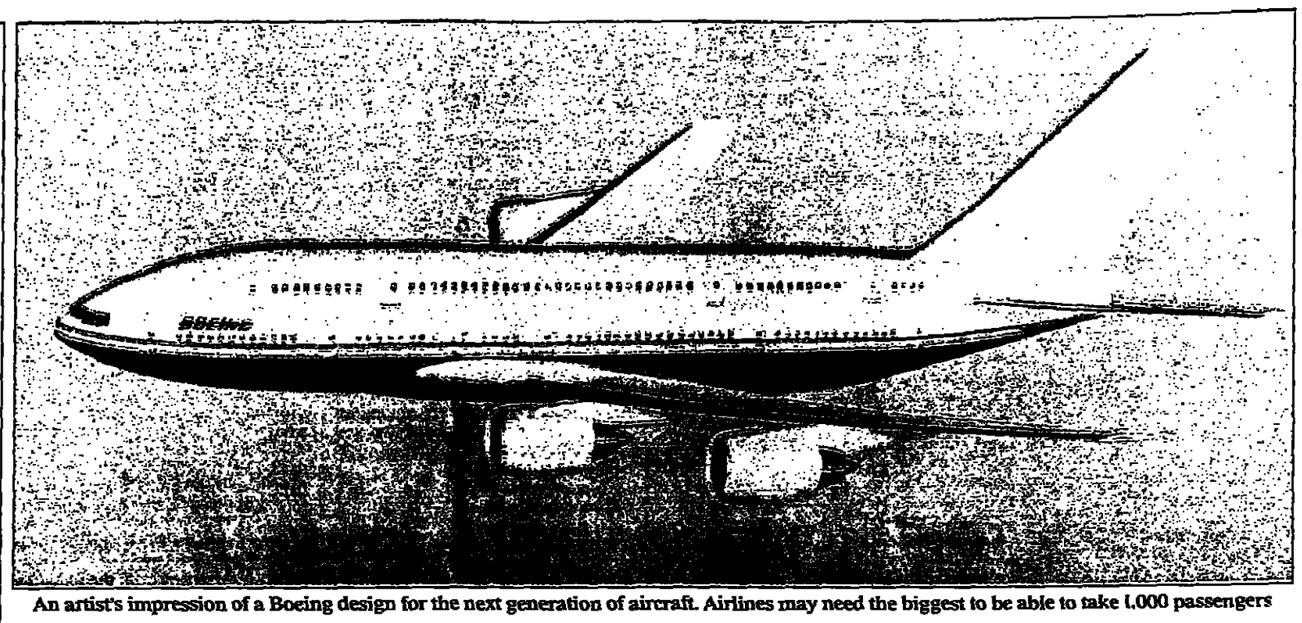
AN increase in the volume of packages being sent internationally has led United Parcel Service (UPS) to begin flying a 747-100 cargo jet between America and Europe. Two UPS DC-8 freighters at present fly the route. The 747, which has twice the capacity of a DC-8, will replace one of them.

Florida safety drive

MONARCH Airlines is to feature an in-flight video, directed at motorists, on charter flights to Orlando. It aims to give drivers an understanding of driving conventions in Florida. Route signs are explained and map graphics provide an idea of the size and geography of the state.

Busy Heathrow

HEATHROW Airport is the world's busiest international airport, BAA says. More than 4,730,000 passengers passed through its doors during August 1993. This year, up to the end of August, a total of 46,687,000 people used Heathrow — an increase of almost 6 per cent on the same period for 1991-2.



An artist's impression of a Boeing design for the next generation of aircraft. Airlines may need the biggest to be able to take 1,000 passengers

Bigger jumbo on the way

BY CHRISTOPHER LOCKWOOD

GIANT jetliners up to double the size of today's jumbos could be in regular service around the world within seven years. Experts speaking today at a Royal Aeronautical Society conference on future megajets will confirm that airframe and engine capability already exists to create aircraft up to a size of 1,000 seats. Airlines say they will need such giants soon.

Captain Robin Acton, fleet portfolio manager for corporate strategy for British Airways, says his airline has been aware of the need for a plane bigger than the Boeing 747 since 1991. He says: "An economic analysis of the potential world market for a 600-seat aircraft concluded that, at most, there would be room for only two competing aircraft of this capacity."

Although Boeing and Airbus Industrie are both planning contenders, the huge costs involved suggest that only international collaboration will work.

Captain Acton adds that although the recession has had a major impact on global airline finances, the long-term trend is for 5 to 6 per cent annual growth in worldwide traffic as demand in the Pacific region grows faster than the world average. "BA's global strategy", Captain Acton says, "requires that it has a vehicle to compete effectively in these key long-range intercontinental markets. By the turn of the century, the 747 will be too small on routes where frequency increases are not possible."

Airlines believe that the developing shortage of runway capacity, or take-off slots, especially in Europe and Japan, limits the possibility of carrying increasing traffic with more flights. BA and many other leading airlines believe that the answer is to cope with increases by using larger aircraft.

Don Jagger, chief engineer for future projects at British Aerospace Airbus, says the aircraft required would be much larger in weight, length and wingspan than 747s.

He adds, however, that the problems of creating such an aircraft within existing constraints of noise, airport limitations, ground handling and other infrastructure considerations are enormous.

Among the difficulties to be resolved is the key issue of safe aircraft separation, both on the ground and in the airways, in particular in connection with jet vortex or wake. It is this factor that at present dictates the time and distance between take-offs at airports and limits runway capacity.

Graeme Ritchie, the operations manager for safety and security for BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, says that the relationship between the aircraft's increased passenger capacity, potential vortex separation and runway movement rates must be explored. If the plane needed too much space between departures, the advantage over several smaller flights would be lost.

The experts agree that a new large aircraft would be about 87 metres long compared with the Boeing 747-400's 71 metres and have a wingspan of 85 metres compared with the 747B's existing 65 metres.

Airport authorities around the world are worried about restructuring ground facilities to handle such planes, but that concern mirrors almost exactly the same worries expressed before the dawn of the jumbo era in the late 1960s.

Boeing, British Aerospace, Germany's Deutsche Aerospace, Aerospatiale of France and CASA of Spain are working jointly on a plane that would be capable of flying more than 8,000 miles nonstop.

Among the detailed designs now being considered are a triple-deck "flying hotel", which will have a large lounge area and bar, perhaps linked to lower decks by a moving staircase or escalator and a twin-hulled project by Airbus.

The new jet would have to be capable of flying non-stop for up to 14 hours and therefore must provide passengers with the opportunity to take exercise, serve themselves from a self-service restaurant and work, if necessary, through a series of computers and telephones linked via satellite to the ground. Overhead lockers would be abolished and clothes and luggage would be stored either in personal lockers at the back of the seat or in a central hanging area.

The aircraft would have to have folding or telescopic wings to enable them to use the runways of "hub" airports in America, Europe and Asia.

VIEWPOINT

Open sky hopes fade

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

FOR A moment last week, it seemed Brussels had finally outlawed any future subsidy for Europe's loss-making state-owned airlines. Karel van Miert, the competition commissioner, told ministers from the 12 EC member states there was to be "no going back" on the community's plans for "open skies".

"What some of the airlines are after apparently is a price cartel and that we cannot and will not allow," he added. He also seemed to reject further EC funding for loss-making carriers such as Aer Lingus, Iberia, Air France, TAP and Olympic, who he accused of harbouring a "certain nostalgia for the cosy state-controlled cartels that existed before EC liberalisation".

His words would, at first, seem music to the ears of British airlines, which have seen governments inject £2 billion into rivals since 1990. British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, British Midland Airways and charter operators gave the same message to a committee appointed by the EC to find answers to the financial problems of Europe's airlines: put the law into effect and ban further subsidies. Sir Colin



BA's five partner airlines: will the British now dominate Europe?

Marshall, BA's chairman, said: "State aid enables airlines to operate on routes with commercially unjustified amounts of capacity."

Sir Michael Bishop, British Midland's chairman, said state aid was "totally unacceptable to companies in the private sector and is in clear breach of the Commission rule that such financial support should have ceased by December 31, 1992".

Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin, complained that "the same old state-owned and private monoliths of Europe continue to lumber along getting bigger".

Sabena argues that EC funds should be available to the airline industry "to enable it to adapt capacity to demand progressively, as it did for the European steel and textile industries two years ago".

Sabena is certain to be supported by other state-owned airlines, which will argue that without transitional state support to reorganise themselves, Britain's private, lean and hungry airlines would be left to dominate the single market in Europe.

The fear remains that Britain will be out-voted in crunch meetings among transport ministers, who are responsible for approving subsidies, although it has right and the law indisputably on its side.

British airlines can only hope for a gradual shedding of unprofitable routes by Europe's state carriers.

State aid for the airline industry is therefore, still not outlawed in much of Europe and is unlikely to be — at least until the recession on the Continent ends and the monoliths have become efficient and profitable.

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Airport's Olympic high

BY TONY ROCCA AND RONALD FAUX

MANCHESTER airport is forging ahead with ambitions to become the showpiece gateway to the North, despite the city's failure in its bid to host the Olympic Games.

The airport handles 13 million passengers a year, making it third in national importance after Heathrow and Gatwick. About 20 million passengers are forecast for the turn of the century, a figure likely to increase to 30 million by 2005.

"The Olympics have been a great boost," says Tim Jeans, who is in charge of market development for the airport, this week. "We lost the bid but the city has undergone a real renaissance. The bid has been a catalyst for change."

Manchester already ranks as eighth most commercially successful airport in the world. Last year it declared £42 million in profits. In April a £265 million second terminal was opened, followed by a £28 million rail link that has outperformed traffic forecasts by more than 50 per cent, carrying 338,000 passengers in its first four months.

Next summer a public enquiry is due to determine whether a second runway should be built. This would boost to 70 the airport's present capacity of 42 aircraft movements an hour.

Satellites to rule the air

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

PRESSURE on governments was growing last week to press ahead with the early introduction of a satellite-based air traffic control system to cope with the expected doubling of aircraft movements by the year 2010.

The future air navigation system (Fans) is based on a now-complete worldwide network of military satellites, and would provide instant navigational accuracy of the same standard as that used by the American cruise missiles during their long-range attacks on Baghdad.

Supporters of Fans say that governments are stalling because of military security implications, the cost of implementation, the need for the relaxation of national boundaries and the complex problems over funding and charges.

However, all 24 American-built satellites necessary to provide global cover are in place already, and Russia has installed 12 of its 24.

"The cost would be high", says John Meredith, the senior director of the International Air Transport Association Action Group, "but the annual savings to the airlines would pay for it ten times over."

Mr Meredith claims that delays and congestion in Europe and America alone cost more than $10 billion a year, while the savings available from using satellites would amount to at least $6 billion a year through the elimination of the existing and highly complex ground-based beacons and radars.

"Delaying one Boeing 747 one minute an hour costs the world economy $1 million a year," he says.

According to the Geneva-based Air Transport Action Group, a 747 waiting in line for take-off burns 17 gallons of fuel every minute — one litre a second.

The lobbying group is led by Iata, Boeing and Airbus Industrie. It also includes 55 other interested parties and is urging governments to abandon land-based ATC systems which are hampered by natural obstacles and national boundaries.

Martin Brackenbury, the president of the International Federation of Tour Operators, which is backing the Fans campaign, says: "With this technology, controllers can locate each aircraft within a few feet. This would allow a higher density of traffic, but would ignore national boundaries."

Ground-based ATC systems vary around the world and many are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with air traffic volume which continues to increase at 5 or 6 per cent every year.

Where not to eat at JFK airport



BY ROBIN YOUNG

EGON Ronay, for decades the scourge of British catering, says that Kennedy Airport (JFK) in New York serves "with far too few exceptions, the worst food — some of it disgusting — I have ever experienced anywhere. With my experience of mass-catering in Britain going back 40 years, that's saying something."

Mr Ronay is officially retained by BAA to inspect and report on food standards at Heathrow and Gatwick, which he says are "incomparably better than those at JFK".

With his colleague, Nigel Jones, Mr Ronay tested more than 150 items of food and beverages in 20 outlets at JFK's eight terminals.

Their agreed verdicts cite third-rate ham, astringent hot dogs, undrinkable coffee, unrecognisable shrimps and "dreadful" ravioli which "looked as though it had been eaten before".

The East-side Café, he describes as "a most depressing, ill-lit room more like a refugees' transit camp than a dining area".

The United Terminal's Coffee House he found "mournful", serving coffee "unacceptable and bitter". A hamburger at Burger King in the Delta Terminal was "completely dried-out — to us almost inedible".

In the British Airways' departure lounge in Terminal 5 Mr Ronay had clam chowder "with no taste at all" and braised steak that "smelt like a kitchen-sinkful of dishwater".

The only bright spots were the TWA terminals where, Mr Ronay says, the caterers, Concession Air, proved themselves "head and shoulders above other caterers".

In his report, which appears in the autumn edition of *Egon Ronay Recommends*, distributed free to passengers at Heathrow and Gatwick, Mr Ronay concludes: "I think the main reason is that at each terminal one company has a catering monopoly. The only way to bring about a dramatic change is to introduce competition."

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• Telephone bill rebellion • Winter sports across the Atlantic • Protest at 'sales ploy'

Outrage at hotel calls surcharge

BY ROBIN YOUNG AND DAVID CHURCHILL

BUSINESS and leisure travellers are becoming increasingly concerned about the high mark-up — estimated at 700 per cent or more — charged by some hotels for using hotel telephones.

They are also angry at moves by some hotels to block toll-free calls made to telephone chargecard companies such as AT&T or BT, a tactic often used by frequent business travellers to avoid paying hotel telephone surcharges. Many hotels have now agreed to allow such toll-free calls but make a charge, on average about £1.50, every time the number is called.

An AT&T survey, carried out with the magazine *Executive Travel*, found that queries over hotel telephone charges were the third most common among business travellers, after airport and airline problems.

The survey discovered that the cost of a ten-minute call from European hotels to America varied widely, according to how much the hotel surcharged. It found, for example, that the Frankfurt Sheraton charged $75.20 for the call, the London Selfridge $53.60 and the Paris Hilton $42.80. Almost a third of business travellers in the survey also reported that they had found discrepancies in their last hotel telephone bill.

The Consumers' Association, which has just published the latest edition of its *Which? Hotel Guide*, says that it has received many outraged letters from consumers. "This is not surprising, given that hotels have told us of surcharges of more than 700 per cent on outgoing telephone calls," it says. The association also reports the case of one man who, faced with a £130 hotel telephone bill, had his luggage impounded until he paid up.

Hoteliers defend their telephone surcharges on the grounds that they need to cover the cost of switchboard operators as well as ensuring there are sufficient lines available for all guest rooms.

But telephone calls are also a vital source of hotel revenue. Charles Mason, hotels analyst for Barclays de Zoete Wedd, says that, according to information from the hotel industry, telephone charges can amount to as much as 5 per cent of total revenue for a hotel. "It is clearly a significant profit centre," he says.

Some hoteliers, however, are beginning to recognise that excessive telephone surcharges can alienate guests. The Beaufort hotel in Knightsbridge, west London, for example, has reduced the cost for guests who make calls to 5p per unit, the amount charged by the telephone company.

"We decided to give our guests a fair deal," says Diana Wallis, the owner of the hotel. "I know of some London hotels which are charging between 50p and 59p per unit for calls which only cost them 5p a unit," she says. "At 5p per unit we are also half the cost of an AT&T chargecard."

The 28-room hotel is also offering regular guests their own telephone number which they can use whenever they visit the hotel, whichever room they stay in.



Skiing at Lake Louise, Banff, where a two-week holiday in a leading hotel can cost £950, including flights from Britain

Canadians go on snow offensive

BY GRAHAM DUFFILL

CANADA, the poor relation of North American skiing, has adopted an aggressive marketing policy to attract British skiers.

Key points are that Canada is closer to Britain than the American Rockies and cheaper. It takes just over eight hours to fly to Calgary and nine to Vancouver. The American Rockies take between 15 and 18 hours to reach.

The Canadian Tourist Board estimates that 70 per cent of the 4,000 British skiers it attracted last year went to the Banff area, with most of the rest heading for Whistler — both about ten hours travelling time from Britain. Banff is on the westerly edge of the Rockies and has drier snow than Whistler, which can be hit by bad weather causing pistes to turn soggy at base and icy at the top.

Winter is low season in Banff, and a week at the Chateau Lake Louise, one of the world's best hotels, sells for about £700, including flights, through American Independence, and £950 for two weeks. Chateau Whistler, another of Canadian Pacific Hotels's best hotels, costs about £750 a week and £1,000 for two weeks, including flights.

Accommodation at these prices at five-star hotels is difficult to obtain not only in America, but also in the Alps. Roy Keane, head of tourism for Canada in the UK, says: "Operators say advance bookings are very good and a couple of them say they have more advance bookings so far than they had customers in the whole of last year."

Canada is, however, a graveyard for British tour operators. First Thomas Cook, then Thomson Holidays and Nielson, pulled out. Many of the 20 operators going to Canada are small specialists, among them All Canada Travel & Holidays, which have been operating for 14 years.

Alan Hubbard, its managing director, says: "Thousands are interested, but the number of enquiries that converts to bookings is small. People think it would be nice to go to Canada, but that it may be something they will do when they retire."

Crystal Holidays reports that it sold 1,000 ski holidays in the Banff area to Britons last year. American Independence added Canada to its North American programme this year, and Ski Scott Dunn is offering newcomers heli-skiing with Mike Wiegle Heli-skiing.

One week of heli-skiing costs £2,700 to £3,000, but 70 per cent of the cost goes on the helicopter. The helicopter ban which now covers almost all the Alps means that Canada, where the sport was invented, is probably the only place to permit heli-skiing.

● *Canadian Tourist Board, 071-258 6346; American Independence, 0371 874848; All Canada Travel and Holidays, 0502 585825; Ski Scott Dunn, 081-767 0202.*

FLYAWAYS

A trip to the past

AIR Canada Vacations (081-900 1156) offers train travel with a 1950s' flavour, for £399 per person including all meals, but excluding flights. Travellers on the "Canadian" train, which has newly restored carriages dating from the days when "Peggy Sue" and "Blue Suede Shoes" were all the rage, have their own private rooms. The train stops at Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Jasper and Kamloops.

☐ COUNTRY Holidays (0282 445566) has reduced next year's prices for people who book before December 24. The Lancashire-based company says that a typical reduction is £40 off a two-week holiday, cutting the price of a cottage near Keswick in the Lake District to £588.

☐ QUEENS Moat Houses hotels in Stoke-on-Trent (0782 219000), Sheffield (0742 375376) and Ware in Hertfordshire (0279 792416) offer pre-skiing weekends for anyone wanting to get into shape. All three hotels have dry ski slopes nearby. Prices start from £43 per person per night, half board, for a minimum two-night stay.

☐ SKYBUS HOLIDAYS (071 373 6055) offers two weeks in St Lucia or Barbados with departures from Gatwick airport on October 14. A fortnight in St Lucia starts from £499 per person based on two sharing. In Barbados, one person pays £1,079, the second travels free.

☐ FINNCHALET (0764 670020) offers a seven-night trip departing on December 19 to Santa's workshops, with an opportunity for reindeer rides and a trip to the Arctic Circle. Holiday-makers stay in a chalet village near Rovaniemi, in Finland. The cost is £2,018 for a family of four, including flights, half-board accommodation, snowmobile safaris, skiing and a visit from Santa on Christmas Day.

☐ SOLO'S (081-202 0855) offers breaks for independent over-30s to destinations including Gambia, Hong Kong and China, Lanzarote and Nepal.

Travel News is edited by Harvey Elliott

Holiday advert farce

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

ADVERTISEMENTS in travel agents' windows for holidays that have already sold out may be banned by law. Trading standards officers, who claim that the number of misleading adverts is growing because of a legal loophole, are to press the government to provide more protection for holidaymakers.

Officials said last week that 11 out of 41 window adverts at travel agents they had visited were out of date. They suspect that thousands of others are deliberately being left on display to tempt holidaymakers into the shops.

Under existing legislation there is little that can be done, but trading standards officials say that unless the industry acts voluntarily they will press for new legislation.

"We are concerned that the public is being misled," says Mike Drewry, director of the trading standards office at Lothian regional council. His officers, acting on complaints from disappointed customers, found that only a quarter of "postcard" advertisements were actually available.



Betton: 'It's a minefield'

"Whether it is part of a marketing tactic to attract customers or due to a breakdown in management is unclear, but an urgent review of this type of advertising is necessary," he says. "Customers can help us by reporting such travel agents to local trading standards officers."

Mr Drewry says he will be writing to the trade and industry department asking it to take the survey into account during its review of the trade descriptions law.

The Association of British Travel Agents described window advertising as "a minefield". Keith Betton, head of corporate affairs, says: "We would regard any shop as innocent until proven guilty, but we would not condone a travel agent who was knowingly misleading customers.

"The difficulty is that agents do not know whether a package is no longer available until they try to book it."

The colony seeks the revenue it can earn as the Far East's sports centre

Hong Kong bats to win

BY JOHN YOUNG

HONG KONG is seeking to establish itself as the sports centre of the Far East to compete with other countries in the region for tourists and the revenue they bring.

The colony, which reverts to Chinese rule in 1997, cannot match the natural attractions of such countries as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and, of course, mainland China. But big sports events, which might include, say, golf and yachting, offer the prospect of a lucrative new market.

Last week's international six-a-side spectacular at Kowloon cricket club, which England won, was an outstanding success. Eight visiting teams took part, from England, Australia, the West Indies, New Zealand, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and South Africa, plus a local team of weekend players who distinguished themselves by beating the mighty West Indies. With stars such as Graham Gooch and Sachin Tendulkar on the field, it was exactly the kind of event Hong Kong wants.

The match was sponsored by Wharf Holdings, a local property group, and by Cathay Pacific Airways, whose marketing communications manager, Alastair Blount, talks of a big future for sport in the competition for tourists. He sees prospects for soccer, rugby, cricket and hockey, and would also like to promote what he calls "plus fours" for veteran players.

"We must keep Hong Kong on the international map," he says. "We hope 1997 will only be a hiccup, and that we will go on getting worldwide attention."

Although Peking has lost its bid to stage the Olympic Games in 2000, the Chinese government may gain some consolation from knowing that, when it takes over in Hong Kong, it will have an almost new 40,000-seat multi-purpose stadium. The cost, about HK$1,000 million (nearly £90 million), is being met by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club.

The stadium is due to open on March 11 next year with a floodlit pop concert and a football match and, a few days later, the 19th international rugby seven-a-side tournament. If all goes to plan, the stadium will become an established international venue for a whole range of sports events, and help China to gain the international acceptance it craves.

THE TIMES PRE-CHRISTMAS BREAK IN BANGKOK: FIVE NIGHTS FROM ONLY £599

Enjoy a trip to the far east

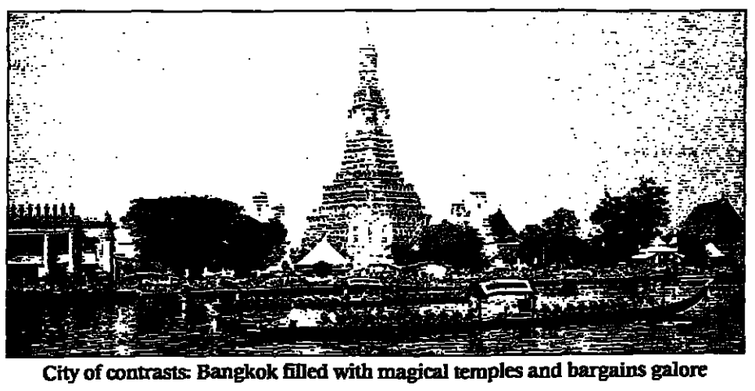
Thailand is one of the most exhilarating countries in the Far East. Bangkok, its vigorous capital, is a city of contrasts where golden-spired temples stand incongruously alongside brightly flashing neon bar-signs. Everywhere you look there are pagodas, temples, modern buildings and Buddhist monks in their saffron robes.

Fly direct to Bangkok with British Airways and stay at the Imperial Queen's Park or the Shangri-La, voted one of the top ten hotels in the world. The Imperial Queen's Park has two swimming pools set in roof-top gardens. The Shangri-La is spectacularly situated beside the Chao Phraya River just minutes from the city centre.

Fill your days seeing the sights and doing your Christmas shopping. Find bargains such as silks, clothes, leather goods and watches. Take a long-tailed taxiboat up and down the river, try the spicy cuisine or watch Thai classical dance. Whatever you do, enjoy the legendary Thai hospitality.

The price is £599 per person for The Imperial Queen's Park (single supplement £130); and £739 per person for the Shangri-La (single supplement £220). This includes return flights with British Airways London-Bangkok; five nights twin share accommodation at the Shangri-La (five star deluxe) or The Imperial Queen's Park (five star) on a room only basis; transfers airport-hotel. An Apex flight to Bangkok on British Airways would cost £840. The room rates at the Shangri-La are £134-£155 per room per night, and at the Imperial Queen's Park are £106.

Please note places are strictly limited. To book please complete the coupon or phone Cox & Kings Travel direct on 071-873 5005.



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NEWS

Tory right asserts its strength

■ The Conservative right asserted its strength yesterday by unveiling the toughest crackdown on crime for a decade and a redoubled assault on benefit fraud.

Right-wing ministers took centre stage at the party conference as their champion Baroness Thatcher arrived in Blackpool to a blaze of media publicity, a fresh wave of recriminations over her criticisms of John Major and distinct nervousness in the Tory high command.. **Pages 1, 2, 10, 16, 17**

Yeltsin 'panicked' during uprising

■ President Yeltsin was panic-stricken, disorganised and stormed around his offices calling helplessly for absent advisers during the violent uprising by his opponents on Sunday according to a Russian journalist who was inside the President's offices at the time **Pages 1, 12, 16**

UK ambitions at risk

United Kingdom ambitions to remain a world leader in civil aerospace are at risk after officials in Taiwan signalled growing unwillingness to proceed with a joint venture with British Aerospace **Pages 1, 23**

Vegetarian longevity

A diet of nut cutlets and braised broccoli is more likely to lead to long life and good health than roast beef and Yorkshire pud, according to a survey **Page 1**

Businessman a pawn

Two hired assassins executed a British businessman to prevent him from talking about a multi-million pound fraud, a court was told **Page 3**

Howard criticised

The decison by Michael Howard, home secretary, to end the right to silence prompted an immediate outcry, with the chairman of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice warning that it could put at risk "confused and vulnerable" suspects **Pages 1, 4, 10**

Rail safeguards

There must be safeguards against passengers being driven out of city centres under government's plans to sell off its showcase train stations, the main rail watchdog committee said **Page 5**

Patten controversy

John Patten was embroiled in controversy after he launched an outspoken personal attack on two local authority officials, labelling one a "madman" **Pages 2, 10**

Successful meeting

The twentieth anniversary of the outbreak of the last major Arab-Israeli war was marked by the first successful working session between the leaders of Israel and the PLO **Page 13**

Hong Kong impasse

Barring a Chinese climbdown, the Sino-British negotiations on democracy in Hong Kong will end this month and Chris Patten will lead a unilateral struggle for the changes Peking has vowed to destroy **Page 11**

Rights promoted

The Commonwealth has made substantial progress in promoting human rights in member states, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, its secretary-general, said ... **Page 13**

Disappearing deer

The monarch of the glen may have disappeared from the Scottish mainland by the end of the century. Research indicates that interbreeding between wild red deer and sika deer is far more widespread than previously thought **Page 8**

Ford accused

Ford faced accusations of distorting new car sales, detracting from figures that showed registrations up 11.8 per cent in September **Page 7**

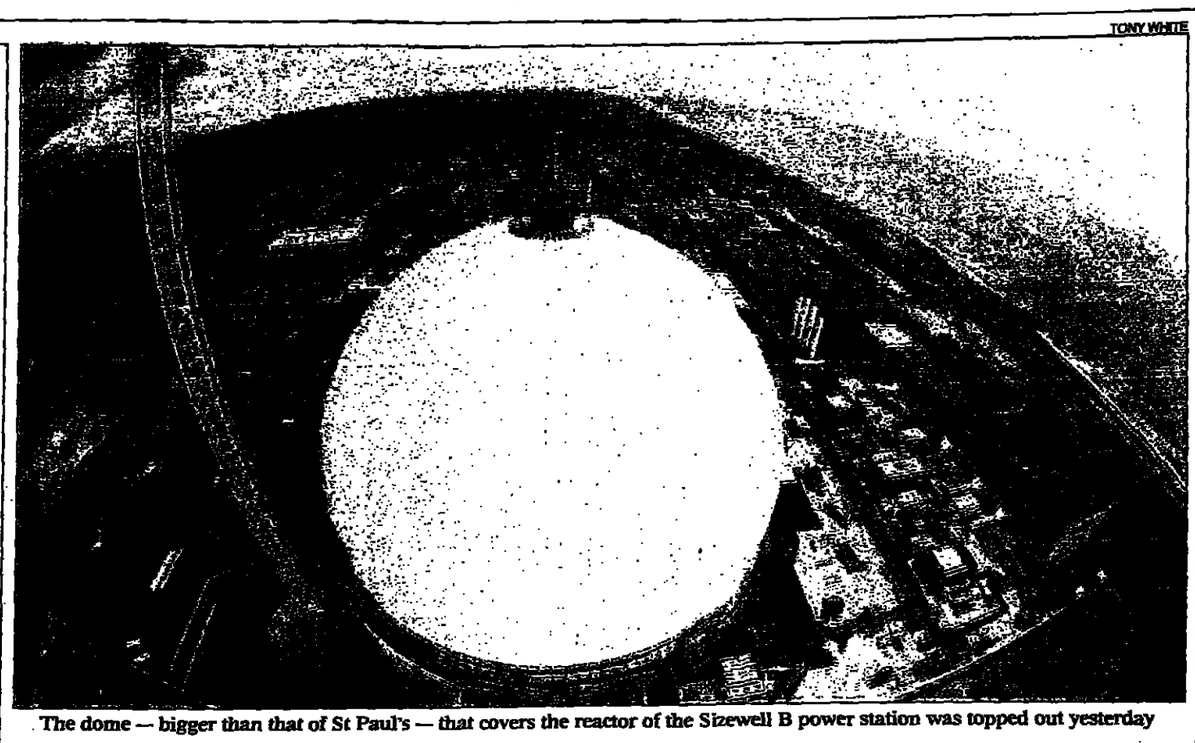
Depressed nation

Britons are becoming increasingly miserable, anxious and depressed, according to psychiatrists **Page 5**

Boxing is good for you

■ Amateur boxing does not cause brain damage and may improve the speed of mental functioning among those who take up the sport, researchers claim. A study of 86 amateur boxers, who were given a series of psychological tests before and after bouts and up to two years later, found their memory and speed of functioning were significantly improved **Pages 3, 39**

TONY WHITE



The dome — bigger than that of St Paul's — that covers the reactor of the Sizewell B power station was topped out yesterday

BUSINESS

Markets: The FT-SE 100 share index set a new intra-day high of 3116.3 after rising 31.1 points in the first two hours of trading. Shares then retreated after mid-session profit-taking but rallied again to close at 3100.8, up 15.6, for a new record close. The pound rallied to finish stronger against both the mark and the dollar **Page 27**

Brewer: Whitbread is unwinding the two-tier share structure that set it apart **Page 23**

Rebuke: North of England Building Society was given an unprecedented public rebuke by the main financial services watchdog for wrongly selling investments to customers **Page 24**

SPORT

Boxing: Chris Eubank stole the honours at a press conference for his fight with Nigel Benn. He arrived dressed in riding pants, boots, waistcoat, gold chain and sported a monocle **Page 39**

Golf: Nick Faldo, the world's leading player, plays in the Belgian Open in an effort to consolidate his position at the top of the Volvo order of merit. Chasing him hard is Ian Woosnam **Page 38**

Racing: An observant groundsman saved the day at Haydock Park when he noticed the track had been damaged by subsidence. He notified the clerk of the course who abandoned the remainder of the two-day meeting **Page 41**

FEATURES

Medical check: The risk of malnutrition in hospital, Malta fever and Wegner's Granular Matosis, a disease which attacks the nasal passages, are assessed by Dr Thomas Stuttaford **Page 14**

Primitive urge: Ever since Captain Cook returned from his travels in the Pacific with tales of painted bodies, tattoos have been worn by the unlikeliest people **Page 15**

BOOKS

Wyatt on Major: Does the prime minister have a future? Plus Victoria Glendinning on Paul Theroux, Norman Stone on the Scots, and books by Martin Amis, Amos Oz and Lord Longford **Pages 36, 37**

ARTS

Estate agent: Film-maker Ken Loach's latest piece of gritty realism, *Raining Stones*, is set on a Manchester housing estate. "A powerful tale of life on the edge," says Geoff Brown. Also reviewed: Robert De Niro in *This Boy's Life*, and *Hard-Boiled*, murder and mayhem from Hong Kong director John Woo **Page 33**

See it, read it: Channel 4 is launching a series of programmes designed to encourage people to switch off the telly and read a good book instead **Page 35**

Pipe dream: A new organ has been inaugurated at one of London's most elegant concert venues: St John's, Smith Square **Page 35**

PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



Margaret Jagger broke down as she spoke for the first time in public about the murder of her boyfriend in Florida last month
Page 3



Lucinda Cash-Gibson, who became the youngest Mensa member at the age of four, has been refused state help with her school fees
Page 5



Ian McDonald told the Scott enquiry into arms for Iraq that MoD sales staff had not been "gung-ho" in promoting military exports to Baghdad
Page 2

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Marvin gets heavy

■ Marvin Hamlisch, the Broadway tunesmith who composed *A Chorus Line*, has "gone legit". He is in town to hear the London Symphony Orchestra play his serious orchestral work, *The Anatomy of Peace*

Safety in the Channel tunnel

■ Will you feel safe in the Channel tunnel? Infotech reports on a train simulator that is teaching drivers to cope with every eventuality

Buying a car for big families

■ Looking for a car that will comfortably carry more than the average 1.8 children? Motoring looks at transport for big families

LEADERS

A provocative reappraisal of the 1991 Gulf war against Saddam Hussein suggests that it was a cynical move by the United States to protect its oil supplies. *Critical Eye: Proud Arabs and Texas Oilmen* (Channel 4, 9pm) **Page 43**

LETTERS

Howard's beginning

Michael Howard's exhilarating speech to the Tory party conference was populist in the best sense of the word. It addressed the anxiety of ordinary people about law and order and the rising fear that the criminal justice system is weighted in favour of the offender **Page 17**

From the heart

Mr Patten made clear that his zeal for social reforms, and his conviction that Hong Kong's more vulnerable people deserve better protection, have only been whetted by his first year as governor .. **Page 17**

A station of one's own

Stations are not airports, and developers may be unconvinced of the commercial advantage from people rushing through at full-tilt to catch the 6.18 **Page 17**

OTHERS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Britain can only save Europe from *long-term depression* if we can convince our partners that world competitiveness is the economic battleground of the 1990s. To survive, Europe must be competitive with the United States, with Japan, with the emerging Asian nations, with low Eastern European costs. Britain proved in the 1980s that its policies produce results **Page 16**

JANET DALEY

Anyone who observes children will know that the natural inclination of most small boys is to be anarchic and amoral. They do not have to be pathological cases to be delinquent and aggressive: just unrestrained and morally untutored **Page 16**

ANNE MCELVOY

The events in Moscow have proved more unsettling than the West's response would suggest ... **Page 16**

LEADERS

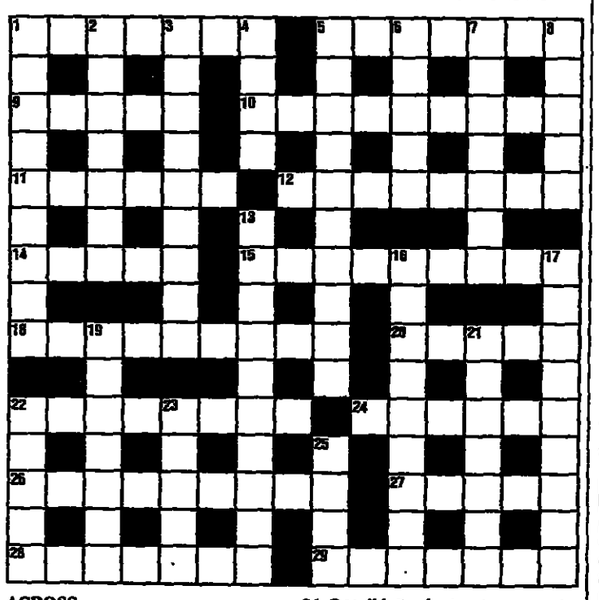
The Child Support Act may be imposing intolerable burdens on parents **Page 17**

THE TIMES

More US force may be needed, but our days in Somalia should be numbered. In small numbers

— Los Angeles Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,355



ACROSS

1 Emaciation in a scalp (7).
5 Sent back increased bill to rent *house in Verona* (7).
9 Buyer's first into bargain even to get fur (5).
10 Frantic winks warning some relatives (9).
11 Artist and others joining that woman (6).
12 Terrible reports I produced for class of buffoons (8).
14 Agreed to listen to poet (5).
15 Frank and I are reforming this white man (9).
18 Rabble I conducted outside is ready to fight (9).
20 Guarded and put in prison at journey's end (5).
22 Exhibit chap provided is in Paris (8).
24 Republic is having unfortunate king sent back (6).
26 One didn't volunteer to prepare to play one's part (9).
27 Inner personality shown by Manx cat, for example? (5).
28 Encourage to try PM's number (7).
29 Grossly flattering in storeroom (7).

DOWN

1 Made trams specially — for this city, perhaps (9).
2 There are no returns from its other bank (7).
3 Bit by bit, church is dividing things to eat (9).
4 It's tolerable in the old form of oppression (4).
5 20% of nickel I put in category C (10).
6 Soldier captured on king's authority (5).
7 Take off clobber quietly, finishing with nothing on (7).
8 A large cask is provided for the port (5).
13 Preserve the outcome of this spell of improvisation? (3,7).
16 Jerk violently with sudden movement to get engine going (4-5).
17 Blues used in service (5,4).
19 Book about Commonwealth soldier's endless source of wealth (7).
21 Rock formed in great upheaval (7).
22 Mineral in 21 hard to find in this book (5).
23 It's one side of stone, in truth (5).
25 Bash using upraised clubs or knife (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,354

C	A	R	T	H	A	G	I	N	I	A	N			
O	U	I		A		A		G	M		S			
L	O	C	O	M	O	T	O	R		G	R	A	F	T
O		H		A		E		C		R		N		O
N	E	E	D	L	E		D	O	G	O	O	D	E	R
E		A		T				A		E				
L	E	G	B	Y	E		B	I	L	B	E	R	R	Y
		I		A		D		C		E		I		
W	A	G	O	N	L	I	T		P	A	U	N	C	H
I		A		V				C				O		
L	A	N	D	S	L	I	P		C	H	A	P	E	L
L		T		T		S		V		H		R		S
O	S	I	E	R		I	T	I	N	E	R	A	N	T
W		C		A		V		S		A		N		E
		S	W	E	E	T	A	N	D	S	O	U	R	

Concise Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.415	2.215
Austria Sch	18.42	16.92
Belgium Fr	56.42	52.02
Canada $	2.147	1.987
Cyprus Cypf	0.780	0.730
Denmark Kr	10.60	9.80
Finland Mkr	9.42	8.62
France Fr	9.10	8.40
Germany Dm	2.61	2.40
Greece Dr	371.00	348.00
Hong Kong $	12.38	11.38
Ireland Pt	1.10	1.02
Italy Lira	2510.00	2355.00
Japan Yen	177.50	158.00
Malta	11.37	10.57
Netherlands Gld	2.935	2.705
Norway Kr	11.37	10.57
Portugal Esc	265.50	247.00
South Africa Rd	5.80	5.00
Spain Pta	206.50	192.50
Sweden Kr	12.80	12.00
Switzerland Fr	2.295	2.115
Turkey Lira	18800.00	17600.00
USA $	1.615	1.485

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

WEATHER

Scotland will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain, showery in the south and east at first. Brighter weather will spread northwest to all but the far north. Northern Ireland will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain, turning showery. Much of England will be bright with scattered light showers after a misty start. The more southwestern areas and Wales will have heavier, more frequent showers. Outlook: unsettled; drier and brighter on Saturday.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	24	75	c	Madrid	15	59	c
Alicante	25	77	s	Majorca	23	73	s
Alex'dria	27	81	f	Malaga	21	70	c
Algiers	26	79	f	Malta	26	79	f
Amst'dm	16	61	f	Melb'rne	18	64	s
Athens	25	77	c	Mexico C*	17	63	f
Bahrain	33	91	s	Miami*	29	84	r
Bangkok	31	88	f	Milan	16	61	r
Barbados*	29	84	f	Montreal*	8	46	c
Barcelona	23	73	s	Moscow	10	50	f
Beirut	26	79	f	Munich	16	61	c
Belgrade	20	68	f	Nairobi	20	68	s
Berlin	17	63	f	Naples	24	75	f
Bermuda*	23	73	r	N Delhi	33	91	s
Biarritz	18	64	f	N York*	15	59	s
Borde'x	17	63	c	Nice	17	63	f
Brussels	16	61	f	Oslo	11	52	r
Budapst	17	63	s	Paris	14	57	f
B Aires*	15	59	s	Peking	23	73	s
Cairo	29	84	s	Perth	17	63	c
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Prague	15	59	f
Chicago*	16	61	s	Reykjavik	3	37	c
Cologne	15	59	f	Rhodes	25	77	s
C'hagn	14	57	f	Rio de J	28	82	s
Corfu	23	73	s	Riyadh	39	102	s
Dublin	9	48	c	Rome	25	77	f
Dubrovnik	21	70	f	Salzburg	22	72	f
Faro	20	68	f	S F'isco*	17	63	c
Florence	24	75	c	S Paulo*	21	70	c
Frankfurt	16	61	c	Seoul	21	70	s
Funchal	23	73	f	Sing'por	32	90	f
Geneva	11	52	f	St'kholm	15	59	f
Gibraltar	17	63	c	Straeb'rg	17	63	s
Helsinki	10	50	c	Sydney	21	70	s
Hong K	27	81	s	Tangier	19	66	c
Innsbruck	21	70	s	Tel Aviv	28	82	f
Istanbul	21	70	s	Tenerife	25	77	s
Jeddah	35	95	s	Tokyo	20	68	c
Jo'burg*	19	66	c	Toronto*	10	50	f
Karachi	33	91	s	Tunis	29	84	s
L Palmas	25	77	s	Valencia	23	73	f
La Toquet	18	61	f	Vanc'ver*	12	54	c
Lisbon	18	64	f	Venice	18	64	s
Locarno	14	57	c	Vienna	22	72	s
L Angeles*	20	68	f	Warsaw	11	52	c
Luxemb'g	15	59	c	Wash'ton*	18	64	s
Luxor	35	95	s	Zurich	13	55	c

* denotes figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 15C (59F), min 6pm to 6am, 12C (54F). Humidity 9pm, 78 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.21in Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.9hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 990.9 millibars, falling 1,000 millibars = 29.53in

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 15C (59F), min 6pm to 6am, 9C (48F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.17in Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 2.7hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 12C (54F), min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.57in Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	6.6	-	13	55	bright
Anglesey	4.3	0.27	15	59	shower
Aviemore	6.2	-	12	54	bright
Belfast	0.7	0.06	13	55	rain
Birmingham	2.2	0.61	14	57	rain
Bournemouth	3.6	0.67	16	61	shower
Bristol	2.0	0.61	16	61	shower
Buxton	-	0.33	11	52	rain
Cardiff	2.5	0.21	15	59	shower
Clacton	7.4	0.04	16	61	sunny
Edinburgh	1.5	-	12	54	cloudy
Eskdalemuir	3.3	-	12	54	bright
Exmouth	4.1	0.15	15	59	bright
Falmouth	6.7	0.31	15	59	bright
Folkestone	5.6	0.19	17	63	bright
Guernsey	4.2	0.14	17	63	shower
Hunstanton	6.9	-	17	63	bright
Isle of Man	-	0.13	13	55	rain
Jersey	5.6	0.10	17	63	shower
Kinloss	1.1	-	13	55	cloudy
Leeds	-	0.16	13	55	rain
Lerwick	-	0.42	9	48	rain
Liverpool	0.7	0.22	15	59	rain
Lowestoft	8.5	0.02	17	63	sunny
Margate	8.4	0.15	17	63	sunny
Morecambe	-	0.09	13	55	shower
Newcastle	-	-	12	54	dull
Newquay	5.2	0.56	15	59	shower
Nottingham	0.6	0.57	13	55	rain
Penzance	6.5	0.28	16	61	bright
Plymouth	4.0	0.02	15	59	shower
Sandown	5.3	0.57	16	61	bright
Saunton Snd	4.0	0.45	16	61	bright
Scarborough	2.5	0.02	13	55	cloudy
Scilly Isles	4.8	0.65	15	59	bright
Teignmouth	3.5	0.47	16	61	shower
Tenby	4.8	0.33	16	61	shower
Tiree	9.7	-	18	65	sunny
Torquay	3.7	0.44	17	63	shower
Weymouth	4.2	0.50	16	61	thunder
Wick	0.8	0.26	11	52	rain

These are Tuesday's figures

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 6.55 pm to 6.41 am
Bristol 7.05 pm to 6.51 am
Edinburgh 7.03 pm to 6.58 am
Manchester 7.01 pm to 6.51 am
Penzance 7.18 pm to 7.01 am

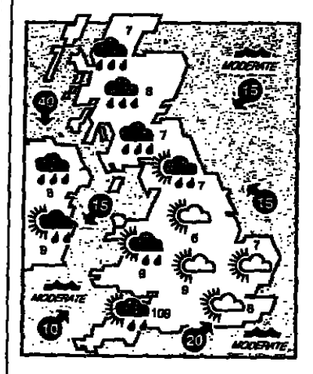
Sun rises: 7.11 am — Sun sets: 6.25 pm
Moon sets: 1.48 pm — Moon rises: 10.16 pm
Last quarter tomorrow

YESTERDAY

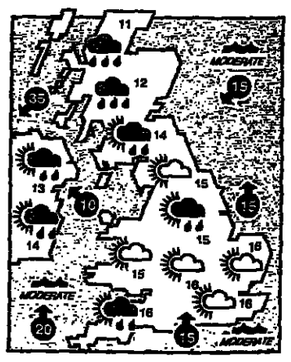
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	9	48	c	Guernsey	14	57	f
Birmgham	13	55	r	Inverness	10	50	r
Blackpool	14	57	f	Jersey	13	55	r
Bristol	14	57	r	London	15	59	r
Cardiff	13	55	r	M'nchester	14	57	r
Edinburgh	11	52	r	Newcastle	12	54	r
Glasgow	10	50	r	R'nidaway	11	52	r

AM



PM

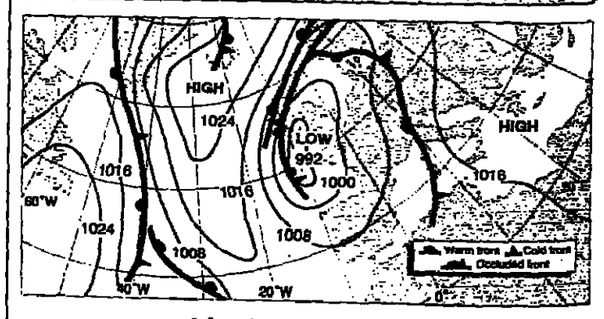


Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989: The hours of darkness are defined in these Regulations as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise.

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6 05	6.5	6.25	6.5	Liverpool	3.16	8.2	3.32	8.1
Aberdeen	5 42	3.7	5 59	3.7	Lowestoft	1.37	2.3	2.01	2.2
Avonmouth	11 14	11.1	11.37	10.8	Margate	4.05	4.5	4.27	4.4
Belfast	3.16	3.2	3.43	3.3	Milford Haven	10.24	5.9	10.50	5.6
Cardiff	10.59	10.4	11.22	9.9	Newquay	9 17	5.9	9.45	5.7
Devonport	9 56	7.8	10.20	5.5	Oban	9.43	3.4	10.10	3.1
Dover	2.51	6.0	3.05	6.0	Penzance	9.03	4.8	9.29	4.5
Falmouth	9.36	4.6	9.50	4.7	Portland	10.33	1.7	11.01	1.5
Glasgow	5.00	4.2	5.22	4.7	Portsmouth	3.33	4.2	3.46	4.2
Harwich	3.56	3.7	4.17	3.7	Shoreham	3.03	5.4	3.24	5.2
Holyhead	2.30	4.9	2.49	4.8	Southampton	3.05	4.0	3.24	4.0
Hull	10.38	6.3	10.48	6.2	Stranraer	10.03	7.8	10.29	7.5
Ilfracombe	10.03	7.8	10.29	7.5	Swansea	10.22	8.1	10.50	7.8
King's Lynn	10.42	5.5	10.52	5.4	Tees	8.04	4.8	8.30	4.5
Leith	7 08	4.7	7.23	4.6	W'ton-on-Nze	3.47	3.9	4.11	3.8

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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WEATHER FACTS BY FAX

Detailed 1-5 day forecasts
Dial 0336 41 31
followed by the relevant two digit regional numbers:
S/East 51, S/West 52, Midlands 53, E/Anglia 54, Wales 55, N/West 56, N/East 57, Scotland 58, N/Ireland 59.
Use your fax phone, when prompted press start, copy or receive button and replace receiver.
Info supplied by the Weather Dept Ltd T.T.A.P. Ltd., Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 7AQ. Cheap rate 36p per min, 48p per min all other times.

هكذا من الاصل